



'It means the world is going to be OK'

Syrian family on its way to Ontario **metroNEWS**

FILM FRIDAYS

Tom Hardy talks about *Legend* and three more movies

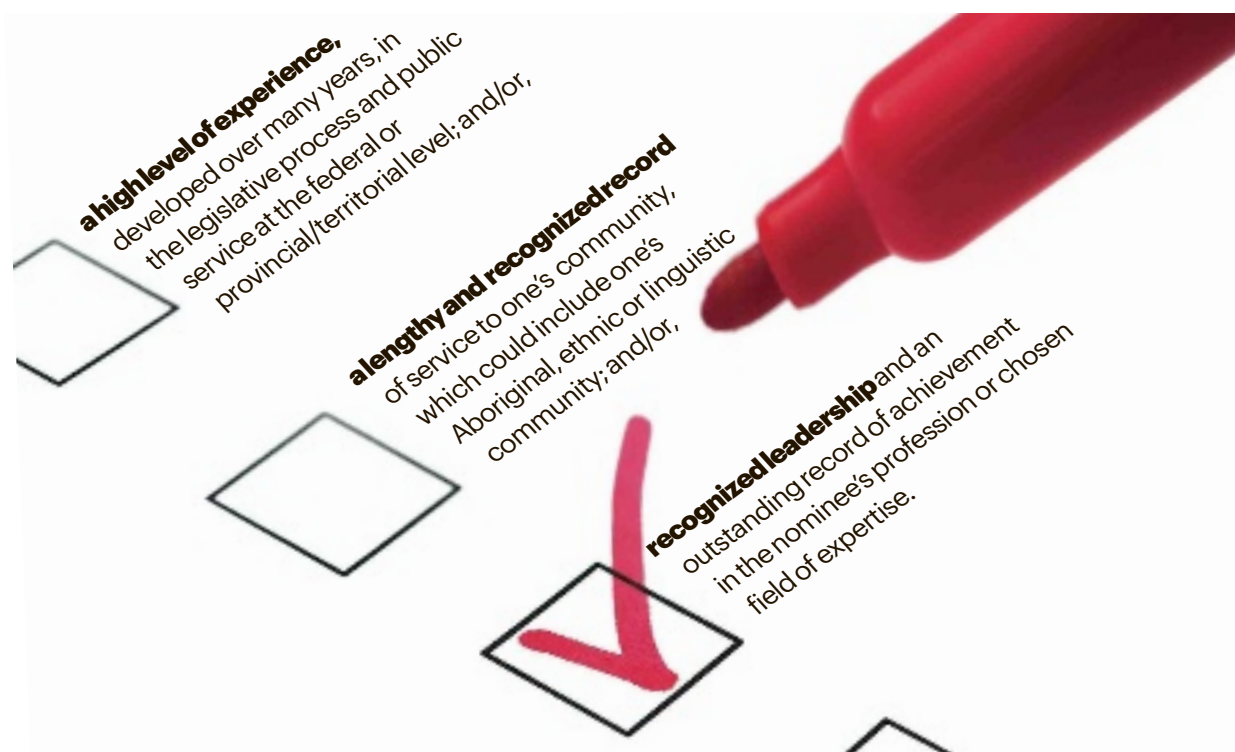
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So you want to be a senator...

Inside the Liberals' new rules for joining the Red Chamber

in **metroNEWS**

Bluesfest pushes back on transit fee

OC TRANSPO

Director says he would cut programs if costs passed on



Emma Jackson
Metro | Ottawa

Blues in the Schools, Be in the Band and a year-round music school could be axed if the city makes Bluesfest pay for transit, festival director Mark Monahan warned Thursday.

OC Transpo wants the two-week music festival to pay \$200,000 a year to offset the costs of providing extra buses, staff and overtime to get festival-goers home from LeBreton Flats every night.

Passing the cost to ticketholders — about \$0.80-\$1.00 per ticket based on 2015's 300,000-person attendance — would give festival-goers free transit to the event.

But Monahan said that "significant increase" couldn't be done in such a "price-sensitive market."

Instead, the money would have to come from the festival's operations, and its charitable budget may be first on the chopping block, Monahan said.

"These are all things that don't necessarily generate revenue for us, and I think that's one of the

things that organizations look at when they start to look at cutting," he said.

The Blues in the Schools program reaches 5,000 students in 20 schools every year. Be In the Band so far has created about 250 local teen bands since the program began in 2009, Monahan said.

According to an email survey sent to Bluesfest subscribers, about 40 per cent of attendees take transit to the event, and 70 per cent of those pay cash. That's all money in the bank for OC Transpo, Monahan argued, and should offset the cost of providing extra buses.

But OC Transpo general manager John Manconi said it's time to stop subsidizing a multi-million dollar festival when the transit service is also trying to help low-income residents access affordable transportation.

"We want (Bluesfest) to have a great transit service but we have to be equitable about it," Manconi said.

Transit commission chairman Coun. Stephen Blais put it more bluntly.

"It's not clear to me that Kanye West and Iggy Azalea need a subsidy to play in Ottawa," he said.

OC Transpo is also working out a deal with the Canadian Tire Centre.

The transit service faces an \$11.5-million deficit.

TRANSIT COVERAGE, page 8



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5

THINGS TO DO THIS WEEKEND IN OTTAWA

Get your photo taken, take in some movies and join Mayor Jim Watson for holiday crafts and skating.

Haley Ritchie
Metro | Ottawa



1 Craft market

Urban Craft promises “hip, modern, handmade” goodies to fill stockings and put under the tree this year. Vendors are sourced from Ottawa, Toronto, Montreal and beyond. The event starts on Saturday from 10 a.m. to 3 p.m. at the Glebe Community Centre, 175 Third Avenue. Admission is free. **Saturday**



2 Christmas at city hall

Join the mayor on Saturday for a family-friendly Christmas celebration in support of the Ottawa Food Bank. There will be skating, hot chocolate, BeaverTails, crafts and horse-drawn wagon rides. Events kick off at 2 p.m. and run until 6 p.m. Admission is a non-perishable food donation. **Saturday**



3 Help portrait

For some families getting professional photos done during the holidays is an annual tradition — but it's also an expensive luxury that many can't afford. This year volunteer photographers, make-up artists and hair stylists will be at the Montgomery Legion from 9 a.m. to 4 p.m. on Sunday to offer their services to families and individuals in need. **Sunday**



4 Dec. 6 vigil

The annual Dec. 6 vigil for the National Day of Remembrance and Action on Violence Against Women will take place Sunday night at the Women's Monument in Minto Park. The outdoor vigil begins at 6 p.m. and will be followed by an event indoors at the First United All Saints Church in Westboro at 7 p.m. **Sunday**



5 Mirror Mountain Film Fest

Mirror Mountain has a weekend full of events and screenings for both filmmakers and film aficionados. From experimental animation to human-interest documentaries there's a range of genres included in the festival. **All weekend**

FEMALE OFFICERS

Police to conduct gender audit

The Ottawa police will be reviewing the way female officers are represented in the force after a ruling this week by the Ontario Human Rights Commission.

Const. Barb Sjaarda filed a complaint with the commission on Aug. 16, 2012, alleging a number of frustrations including sexist remarks from a colleague that were ignored and maternity leaves that unfairly impacted her career and training opportunities.

The human rights commission decided Wednesday to intervene in the case, releasing a list of tasks the Ottawa police must undertake to correct discriminatory practices.

“I think it's something we've been working at, the gender based audit is something we've wanted to do. We welcome that,” said Ottawa police chief Charles Bordeleau.

“I want to create an organization where everyone, as a member of this police service, can thrive. I think doing the gender audit will certainly identify any barriers that do exist for women in our organization,” he said.

Over the next two years, the Ottawa police will be required take several steps — including training — to reform ay practices that are setting women behind.

They'll be required to analyze workforce data to see where employees stand based on gender and family status and report the results to the human rights commission. **HALEY RITCHIE/METRO**

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GATINEAU

Celebrating a decade of Timekode's beats

ELECTRONIC MUSIC

Bytown's best monthly dance party is turning ten



Trevor Greenway
Backstage Pass

Kwende Kefentse remembers being very nervous 10 years ago, wondering if anybody was going to show up to his all-night dance party at The Eri Café.

The party was called Timekode, and Kefentse, better known as DJ Memetic, had no idea if the monthly dance party that pushed future beats and "leading edge electronic music" would catch on in sleepy Ottawa.

If you've ever been to Timekode, you already know how this story ends.

If you haven't, spoiler alert: It caught on like wildfire.

Memetic and his counterpart Alexandre Mattar, or Zattar as he is known behind the 1s and 2s, are gearing up for the party of the decade this Friday, as Timekode celebrates 10 years of putting on fun and fresh club nights in the city – club nights that gave so many up-and-coming DJs, pioneers of the craft and even a few out-of-towners a slot behind the decks.

But Timekode isn't just any old monthly dance party with mediocre DJs playing the same

formulaic sound that makes you want to expel your dinner before midnight. The party has always been about forward-thinking dance music, tunes that push the listener into worlds they never knew existed; music you've likely never heard before; melodies so fresh that some don't even know how to dance to it. And all of it infused with as much soul as a Curtis Mayfield record. Those who have been to Timekode know of this "journey" Memetic refers to.

"I think people like the idea of the journey on the dance floor," says Memetic.

"What our focus is, in terms of playing, is having a real journey on the dance floor and people really want that ride. We want to bring people to places they know, places they don't know, places that are both familiar and places they didn't even know they wanted to know about."

Timekode has taken on many life forms over the last decade, going from a small, monthly at Eri, to Café Nostal-

gica and then a giant leap to the 12,000 square foot warehouse at Maker Space North. But no matter where the beats are blasting, Timekode has staying true to its core of delivering thoughtful, soulful dance music curated by Ottawa best selectors – pioneers of the craft like Trevor Walker, Lance Baptiste and DJ Magnificent, among others.

It will be much of the same love at Timekode's 10th birthday at the Horticulture Building this Friday, as they are bringing in Quantic to light up the dance floor. The Brooklyn-based musi-



Timekode DJs Zattar and Memetic flip through vinyl for their upcoming 10-year anniversary party. PHOTO CREDIT IN SMALL CAPS

cian, producer and DJ brings a Latin flare to soulful dance music, while spanning genres, sounds and exploring everything in between.

Oh yeah, and Trevor Walker, arguably Ottawa's best soulful house DJ to ever rotate records, is also on the bill.

Big ups to Memetic and Zattar for ten years of beating bliss.

BOOZE

The most wonderful time for some beer

THE BOTTLENECK

Jordan Duff



The holiday season is coming up fast! You'll want to plan your events, gifts and fireside brews ahead of the pre-Christmas rush. Because you'll be busy yelling at fellow shoppers in a mall parking lot, I've put together a Christmas list to assist you in planning your holiday adventures.

Twelve Bars of Christmas: The ever-ambitious lads at Whitewater Brewing are brewing 12 (!) new beers to be released at different bars through the 12 days of Christmas. Check their website for details as they are released. Then book your days off accordingly.

Christmas in Jul: Dominion City is bringing a Danish Christmas tradition to Ottawa by brewing a julebyrg beer. In accordance with tradition, they will release this beer on "J-Dag" (which is the name of Denmark's national holiday and brewer Josh's nickname), on Dec. 5. The beer promises notes of spice, plum, ginger and orange zest.

Waller St. Beet Down: If you're tired of standing in lines at the Rideau Centre you can take a break and head over to the Waller St. Speakeasy and grab some customized local gift baskets to place under your tree. While there, treat yourself to their cranberry beet saison ale. Much like a controversial Starbucks cup, I assume it's a bright festive red.

All I Want for Christmas Is My Two Front Teeth & Nail: T&N is releasing a holiday treat, TRUCE. This strong 8.75 per cent Belgian ale is thoughtfully brewed with Organic Dried Figs, Organic

Raisins and Star Anise, then fermented with a Belgian Monastic Yeast. 750ml bottles will go on sale at 11 a.m. on Dec. 19 and a holiday party at the brewery starts at 2 p.m.

Beau's All Natural Brewing Company: Beau's Belgian Trippel, New Lang Syne, is brewed to greet the New Year and comes dressed in fancy New Year's Eve attire. Consider this as wine/champagne alternative for holiday dinners and celebrations. You can find it at the LCBO.

Other brewery treats to consider when ringing out the old year include 80 Shilling Scottish-style ale, Black Forest I.P.A. and the gruits: Bog Water and The Bog Father.

How the Whipsnapper Stole Christmas: Like that neighbour who already has his lights up, Whipsnapper got into the Holiday spirit early and released their Xmas Stollen Saison in November. Based on a German fruit bread recipe, this brew gives back with five per cent of proceeds supporting the FAMSAC Food Cupboard.

Dec. 5, 5-9 p.m. will be their holiday bash including special casked beers (hint: rum is involved) and food (hint: mac 'n' cheese is involved). Donations for the Food Cupboard are welcome!

As always, after enjoying any of the above holiday treats, use any alternative mode of transportation, including the seasonal services like Operation Red Nose or Responsible Choice.

+ ALBUM DROP

Timekode is releasing its newest vinyl record on Dec. 4, during the 10-year anniversary party at the Horticulture Building.

≡ GET FESTIVE

We had too many brews to fit into the paper, so check out metronews.ca for the rest of the seasonal suds.

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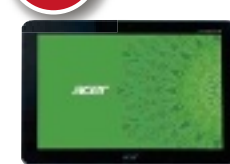
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So you think you can legislate?

DEMOCRACY

Government asks Canadians to apply for Red Chamber



Michael Woods
Metro | Ottawa

Dust off your resume, because ordinary Canadians will be able to apply for an appointment to the Senate under the Liberal government's new appointment process.

The government announced Thursday it's establishing a five-member advisory board to recommend Senate appointees "guided by public, merit-based criteria," a system the Liberals say will make the Senate less partisan and more effective.

"Individual Canadians will be able to apply to be considered for appointment to the Senate through this independent and open application process," Maryam Monsef, the minister of democratic institutions, told reporters Thursday.

The Senate has 22 vacancies to

be filled. The government plans to fill five early next year and the other 17 by the end of 2016.

The board will submit a shortlist of five names for each vacancy to Prime Minister Justin Trudeau, who makes the final decision.

The constitutional requirements for the job remain. You have to be at least 30 years old, be a Canadian citizen and own property worth at least \$4,000, as well as at least \$4,000 in other assets.

But beyond that, the Liberals introduced some new assessment criteria for the advisory board to consider. They include:

Be non-partisan

Nominees will have to show they can bring an "independent and non-partisan" perspective to the Senate. While past political activity won't disqualify a nominee, they will have to disclose any political involvement.

Knowledge of the Senate

Nominees will have to demonstrate "a solid knowledge of the legislative process and Canada's Constitution, including the role of the Senate." So brush up on your knowledge of the chamber



Minister of Democratic Institutions Maryam Monsef.

ADRIAN WYLD/THE CANADIAN PRESS

of sober second thought.

'Outstanding qualities'

Nominees must demonstrate "outstanding personal qualities, including adhering to the principles and standards of public life, ethics, and integrity." They must also show an ability to make a significant contribution to the

developed over many years, in the legislative process and public service at the federal or provincial/territorial level; and/or,

- a lengthy and recognized record of service to one's community, which could include one's Aboriginal, ethnic or linguistic community; and/or,
- recognized leadership and an outstanding record of achievement in the nominee's profession or chosen field of expertise.

Bilingualism

Fluency in both official languages will be considered "an asset," but apparently isn't mandatory. After all, the newly-named Senate Speaker, George Furey, is unilingual.

Other considerations

The Liberals also said nominees will be considered with a view to achieving gender balance in the Senate. And priority consideration will be given to nominees who represent Aboriginal peoples and linguistic, minority and ethnic communities.

Get those cover letters ready!

EDUCATION

College to share anniversary with nation

Algonquin College announced Thursday it will be partnering with the City of Ottawa to welcome guests during 2017 celebrations.

During peak tourism times the college will invite visitors to stay in the college's residences.

Algonquin College will celebrate a 50-year anniversary at the same time the country is celebrating its 150-year anniversary.

The city will also be launching a "Super-Host150" program, a "unique training tool to help ready tourism industry staff, volunteers and residents to welcome visitors."

The program will be developed with help from both Algonquin College and La Cité.

The partnership will also create a "hands-on learning opportunity" for students, especially those studying tourism. The city said there will be opportunities for students to help in the planning, development and delivery of 2017 programming.

HALEY RITCHE/METRO

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FAMILY

Children's Aid Societies need to use abuse registry, says minister

The minister who oversees Ontario's Children's Aid Societies says she's disappointed a previous ministerial directive that caseworkers check the child abuse register isn't always being followed — so she'll issue another.

Auditor General Bonnie Lysyk reported Wednesday that in more than half of the cases she reviewed where a child had suffered abuse or there was an allegation of abuse, Children's Aid Soci-

eties weren't checking the child abuse register to see if there was a history of abuse within the family.

Children and Youth Services Minister Tracy MacCharles says she is very concerned those checks aren't happening as often as they should.

She says the ministry previously issued a directive on it to all Children's Aid Societies in the province, so she will issue another directive and follow up "very soon."

MacCharles couldn't say why she thought a new directive would be effective if the previous one wasn't, saying she is "considering all the tools" available to her, though she wouldn't elaborate.

NDP Leader Andrea Horwath says a minister can make "all the directives under the sun," but unless she makes sure they're being implemented, "they're not worth the paper that they're written on." THE CANADIAN PRESS



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Parking fiasco separates family

WORLD EXCHANGE PLAZA

Two hours to emerge from underground after light show



Joe Lofaro
Metro | Ottawa

Hundreds of people were left stranded for more than an hour in the World Exchange Plaza's underground parking garage Wednesday night, following the Christmas Lights Across Canada show on Parliament Hill.

Matthew Davidge took his wife and their two kids – a two-month-old girl and a three-year-old boy – to the event, which drew thousands to the Hill.

The show was “fantastic”, Davidge said, and better than previous years, but getting home was a two-hour nightmare.

He went underground to fetch the car at about 8 p.m. while his wife and two kids waited in the plaza building.

Tired of waiting, she and the little ones went outside to see if they could spot the family car. Nothing.

She tried to get back inside to keep warm, but the doors were locked, said Davidge.

Down below, he was sitting in his car, motionless, as were hundreds of other anxious drivers. He tried to text his wife, but could not get a signal.

In an interview on Thursday, he described the ordeal in one word: “Infuriating.”

“People were getting out of their cars and asking what was

happening,” he said.

He said he borrowed a stranger's cell phone which was able to send a text.

“She had kids that were out past their bedtime that were initially freezing cold and then when she finally got a text message to go, she met up with some other friends of ours,” said Davidge.

The mother brought her children to the nearby D'Arcy

McGee's, which was still open.

“You get some strange looks when you bring kids to a pub at 10 o'clock at night downtown,” said Davidge, who finally emerged shortly after that.

He said he would go back to show again, but would find a different parking spot next time.

Staff at the World Exchange Plaza did not return calls from Metro on Thursday.



Ellen Denny and Alex Furber as Anne Shirley and Gilbert Blythe in *Anne & Gilbert: The Musical*. LUCY SCHOLEY/METRO

THEATRE

Grown-up Anne on stage at arts centre



Lucy Scholey
Metro | Ottawa

Prince Edward Island's fictional red-haired darling is all grown up in *Anne & Gilbert: The Musical*.

And the musical mash-up of Anne of Avonlea and Anne of the Island – books in Lucy Maud Montgomery's eight-part series – shows that Anne Shirley has grown-up problems.

The island orphan has a new teaching job and two fellas lusting after her, one of them being boy-next-door Gilbert Blythe,

who once made the mistake of pulling her braids back when they were kids.

“She has to learn what love is,” said P.E.I. native Martha Irving, director of the musical that's playing at the National Arts Centre until Dec. 23.

But bookworm Anne, played by Ellen Denny, has a romanticized version of what a real relationship is like. Expect juicy lovers' quarrels.

The song and dance is ultimately about Anne, but also about Prince Edward Island. That islander pride shines through, almost as if the countryside is a character in itself.

Light up the
Village

Annual Tree Lighting Ceremony
Saturday, December 5th, 5:00pm
The Courtyard of All Saints/
First United Westboro Churches,
347 Richmond Road



WESTBORO
VILLAGE

Join Kitchissippi Ward Councillor, Jeff Leiper, Westboro Village BIA representatives and Church pastors for this annual family event. Performance by The Renaissance Carolers starts at 5:00pm. Hot chocolate courtesy of Scotiabank Westboro and cupcakes courtesy of The Cupcake Lounge will be served. And donations of non-perishable food items to the Westboro Food Bank will be graciously accepted.

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Nussbaum will fight for fare freeze

TRANSIT

Councillor advocates raising transit tax, not fares



Emma Jackson
Metro | Ottawa

Raising fares is unfair just as the city's transit system braces for network-wide disruption, says Coun. Tobi Nussbaum, which is why he plans to ask his fellow councillors to freeze fares at council next week.

The councillor announced Thursday he plans to present a motion asking his colleagues to freeze 2016 transit fares and instead increase the transit tax levy from 2.5 to 3.4 per cent.

That 0.9 per cent jump would generate the same \$2.2 million in revenue OC Transpo hopes to raise with its 2.5 per cent fare hike, Nussbaum said.

The increase would amount to about \$5 per household, and is necessary to convince disgruntled riders to stick with OC Transpo through the "tough times," Nussbaum said. That will help the city maintain "the most robust ridership we can garner" when

light rail opens in three years.

"If we were renovating (a hotel), we probably wouldn't choose the period of renovation to raise room prices," Nussbaum added.

Forty per cent of the city's bus trips will be disrupted in some way as of January as light rail construction ramps up toward its launch in 2018.

Commission chairman Coun. Stephen Blais disagreed with Nussbaum.



Coun. Tobi Nussbaum plans to ask council to freeze fares in 2016. EMMA JACKSON / METRO

The gifts don't have to end.



nexus 5X

nexus 6P

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CITY OF OTTAWA

OC Transpo-Via crash suits settled



Joe Lofaro
Metro | Ottawa

The City of Ottawa paid nearly \$2 million to settle six lawsuits related to the deadly crash between an OC Transpo bus and a Via Rail train two years ago — however, many still remain before the court.

Since the fatal Sept. 18, 2013 crash, which killed six and wounded dozens on board the OC Transpo bus in Barrhaven, the city has been served with 36 lawsuits from victims' families and by other riders.

The city settled six of them for a total cost of \$1.93 million, according to city solicitor Rick O'Connor.

In an email to Metro, he said the combined total in damages from all 36 lawsuits is approximately \$26 million.

"Though it should be noted that, as is common in these types of matters, individual plaintiffs may revise their damage claims upwards or downwards as the matters proceed," wrote O'Connor.

He added that he cannot disclose the specific dollar amount of any individual settlement due to confidentiality.

Via Rail is among the parties taking the City of Ottawa to court. Earlier this summer,

the Crown corporation filed a \$4.2-million lawsuit against the city and the estate of OC Transpo driver Dave Woodard.

The Crown corporation is seeking \$4 million in damages to the train, railway tracks, crossing and loss of business, plus about \$200,000 in damages for two locomotive engineers on the train that day, according to a statement of claim.

On Wednesday, the federal Transportation Safety Board released its final report into the crash, which pointed to 15 different factors that contributed to the incident. Among them were driver distraction, speed, visibility, and driver training.

"This accident goes far beyond the actions of any one individual," said TSB investigator Rob Johnston.



The scene of the collision on Wednesday, Sept. 18, 2013.

BRUCE CAMPION-SMITH / TORSTAR NEWS SERVICE

IN BRIEF

Trip cut compromise not possible: OC Transpo

OC Transpo is sticking with its plan to chop first or last trips for 63 bus routes after its analysis showed alternatives would hurt more customers and save less money.

The city's transit commission approved the cuts Thursday to save \$500,000. The changes will affect about 237 customers.

OC Transpo did look at alternatives, staff said, after

councillors raised concerns the cuts could strand customers trying to get to and from work.

Citizen member Blair Crew asked staff to consider combining the first and second trips into one new trip halfway between.

But an analysis of that option showed it would actually hurt more than double the people and would save less than half the money.

EMMA JACKSON/METRO

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IN BRIEF

Regan is new Speaker of House of Commons

MPs have elected Liberal Geoff Regan as Speaker of the House of Commons.

Regan, who represents the riding of Halifax West, was first elected in 1993, defeated in 1997 and then re-elected in 2000, and has served as MP ever since. THE CANADIAN PRESS

Extension on assisted suicide deadline sought

Canada's attorney general Jody Wilson-Raybould is asking the Supreme Court of Canada for a six-month extension on the February deadline to craft laws to govern assisted suicide.

She is also asking that any opposing party be required to respond within three days, instead of the usual 10. THE CANADIAN PRESS

Student's answer to online bullies goes viral

A response to online bullies by a Grade 12 student from Newfoundland and Labrador has gone viral on Facebook.

Lynelle Cantwell was named in a poll posted on the website ask.fm called Ugliest Girls in Grade 12. Cantwell took to Facebook on Tuesday to post a response, in which she highlighted her inner beauty and that of the other girls named in the poll.

Her post has been shared more than 2,500 times as of Thursday. THE CANADIAN PRESS



Lynelle Cantwell
THE CANADIAN PRESS

Canadian sponsors give refugees hope for world

IMMIGRATION

Paperwork and waiting precede trip out of Jordan

The Alhajalis are animated, talking over one another as they compare the prosperous and peaceful pre-revolution life they enjoyed in Syria to the daily struggles they now face as 10 of the 630,000 Syrian refugees in Jordan.

Even though they're heading soon to the safety of Canada, the fear of Syria still hovers.

"All we want," says Razan, 28, wife of Emad, also 28, "is some peace and some security."

In a matter of days, they hope to be on their way there — Razan and Emad's family is among the 10,000 privately sponsored Syrian refugees likely to be in Canada by year's end as part of the Liberal government's commitment to resettle 25,000 of them by the end of February.

Awad Alhajali, 34, and his wife Asmaa, 34, are eventually bound for Canada as well, having found their own private sponsors in the same community — Orangeville, Ont.

About 14 months ago, a Can-



The general situation here is nobody likes to help.

Refugee Emad Alhajali

adian friend of a friend of Razan and Emad pointed out the private sponsorship system and offered to help with the paperwork.

A connection was made eventually with a group from Westminster United Church in Orangeville, Ont., hoping to sponsor a family. The paper-

work was filled out, and then the waiting began.

A month ago, they were called for their health exams, and earlier this week handed over their passports for what they believe are exit visas.

Now they await the phone call telling them when their flight will depart for Canada.

They've heard Canadians are warm and welcoming, and don't fear moving to a different culture.

"It's a surprise when people across the world want to help you," Emad says.

"It means the world is going to be OK," adds Razan.

THE CANADIAN PRESS

+ ON THEIR WAY

Syrian family to head to Orangeville Dec. 14

Brian and Philomena Logel are making arrangements to welcome the Alhajalis into their own home, if only until a more permanent home is found for their Syrian charges. Word came down Sunday that the Alhajalis had received their exit visas and now they're heading to Orangeville, Ont., on Dec. 14.

THE CANADIAN PRESS



LEFT: Syrian refugee Awad Alhajali from Kherbet Ghazalah, Syria, and his wife Asmaa sit with their children, Obaida, 5, Adnan, 9, Abedr, 2, and Obada, 7, left to right, in their apartment in Irbid, Jordan. The family is waiting for approval to immigrate to Canada. **RIGHT:** Headwaters Refugee Group chair Brian Logel with his wife Philomela at the Westminster United Church, in Orangeville, Ont. **LEFT:** CHRIS YOUNG/THE CANADIAN PRESS; **RIGHT:** PAUL CHIASSON/THE CANADIAN PRESS





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Black babies' lives matter, too



Tiara Hardy, 22, credits Blanket of Love classes with helping her bond with her kids. TORSTAR NEWS SERVICE

UNITED STATES

Experts believe racism a cause of high infant mortality

There are a whole lot of baby funerals in Milwaukee. At most of them, it is a black mom crying over the casket.

Milwaukee is one of the most segregated cities in America. Its white infants die at the same rate as infants in Canada. Its black infants die at around the same rate as infants in the Gaza Strip.

"Babies just dying every day," said Mary Love, 25 and expecting her third child, at the popular Blanket of Love prenatal class held weekly at a black church.

The city's politicians and ex-

perts believe they know what is happening. The challenge is fixing it. Four years into an ambitious official campaign to both lower the overall death rate and close the black/white gap, the overall rate has dropped slightly. The 10-point gap hasn't budged.

"This problem is so all-encompassing it's mind-boggling," said Elizabeth Hill-Karbowska, director of women and infants outpatient services at the Wheaton Franciscan health system.

About 15 per cent of the city's black infant deaths are the result of unsafe sleep conditions — fixable stuff. But two thirds of the deaths are the result of premature birth. Prematurity is linked to obesity, teen pregnancy, sexually transmitted infections and a lack of prenatal health care, all linked to social conditions. The city's black pov-



Social worker Sara Nelson teaches mothers how to put their babies to sleep safely. TORSTAR NEWS SERVICE

erty rate, black unemployment rate and black incarceration rate are among the highest in the U.S.

Across the U.S., the black infant mortality rate is nearly double the white rate. The gap can't be explained in full

by poverty or risky decisions: even high-income, college-educated black women are more likely to give birth prematurely than the average white woman. Some researchers, and many of Milwaukee's experts, believe racism is part of the explanation.

Early labour can be triggered by high levels of the stress hormone cortisol. Studies show levels are higher in people who have faced discrimination, no matter what their social status.

In Milwaukee, a community with deep racial divisions, Hill-Karbowska said stress is the "overarching" factor in the crisis.

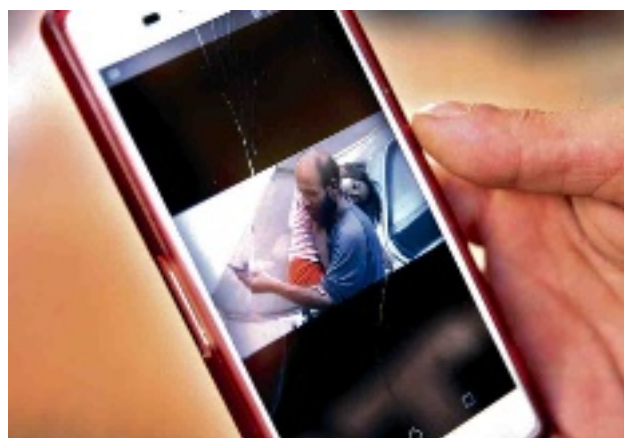
"You're looking at generations upon generations of people who have been unfairly treated," she said. "We're talking about generations of people living with increased levels of stress hormones in their body." TORSTAR NEWS SERVICE

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BEIRUT, LEBANON

Refugee from Syria pays it forward with success



Abdul Halim al-Attar shows the picture that started it all. HUSSEIN MALLA/THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

Abdul Halim al-Attar, a refugee from Syria photographed selling pens in the streets of Beirut, now has three businesses there after a crowdfunding campaign in his name collected \$191,000.

The 33-year-old father of two opened a bakery two months ago and has added a kebab shop and a restaurant. He employs 16 Syrian refugees.

The photograph of al-Attar carrying his sleeping daughter on his shoulder while trying to sell pens to passing motorists in the scorching heat went viral this past summer.

One of those moved by his plight was an online journalist in Norway, Gissur Simonarson,



Not only did my life change, but also the lives of my children and the lives of people in Syria whom I helped. Abdul Halim al-Attar

who created an Indiegogo campaign to raise \$5,000 for al-Attar and his family. The campaign collected almost 40 times more: \$188,685.

"Not only did my life change, but also the lives of my children and the lives of people in Syria whom I helped," he said. Al-Attar said he gave away about \$25,000 to friends and relatives in Syria.

Al-Attar quickly built a better life for himself and his family

in Beirut. It's a long way from Yarmouk, the refugee camp on the southern edge of Damascus where he was employed at a factory. The camp is now devastated by fighting.

Al-Attar is getting used to his newfound status. Lebanese and Syrians alike are nicer to him.

"They just greet me better now when they see me. They respect me more," he said with a smile.

IN BRIEF

Kerry urging world to help defeat ISIL definitively

The Islamic State of Iraq and Levant (ISIL) can be defeated within "months" of a ceasefire between Syria's government and moderate rebels, U.S. Secretary of State John Kerry said Thursday, urging the world to come together behind a peace strategy recently hashed out by the United States, Russia and other countries.

Kerry said air power alone won't be enough. The campaign will require Syrian and Arab boots on the ground — not Western troops. THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

THOUGHTS AND PRAYERS

Outrage building over empty gestures

A political tempest over grief, gun control and prayer plays out after latest mass shooting

It's a natural reaction in times of grief: Politicians from both parties offered supportive thoughts and prayers for those killed in the San Bernardino shootings. But within hours, social media was awash with pushback from gun control advocates calling out those who offer prayers without pushing for tighter gun laws.

"Your 'thoughts' should be about steps to take to stop this carnage," Democratic Sen. Chris Murphy of Connecticut tweeted. "Your 'prayers' should be for forgiveness if you do nothing - again."

Murphy, who has been outspoken in pressing for gun control legislation, added at a news conference Thursday: "Members of Congress don't get elected to send out sympathy tweets."

As GOP presidential candidates and conservative lawmakers tweeted, one by one, their prayers after the shooting, Igor Volsky, a contributing editor at the liberal website Think-Progress, started tweeting back

how much each had received in campaign contributions from the National Rifle Association, which opposes tighter gun laws.

The hashtag #thoughtsandprayers quickly was adopted by those venting frustration with the prayerful sentiments offered by those opposed to congressional action on gun legislation.

THE ASSOCIATED PRESS



Juan Carlos Mendez gathers pastors for a prayer vigil. DAILY PRESS VIA THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

TERRORISM

Paris fugitive hid in migrant wave: Police

Salah Abdeslam, a fugitive suspected in the deadly attacks in Paris, was at the main Budapest train station before mid-September and left with men who had been travelling amid a wave of asylum-seekers trying to enter Europe, Hungarian officials said Thursday.

In Belgium, meanwhile, two more suspects in the Paris attacks were taken into custody facing terrorism charges. In all, Belgium now has eight suspects behind bars who are linked to the Paris attacks or to a possible

attack in Brussels.

Janos Lazar, Hungarian Prime Minister Viktor Orban's chief of staff, said at a news conference Thursday that the Hungarian secret services had confirmed information about Abdeslam's travels they had received from foreign agencies. According to Lazar, the Paris fugitive was at the Keleti Railway terminal in Budapest, where he recruited young men who were refusing to register with Hungarian authorities,

THE ASSOCIATED PRESS



FBI agents search outside a home in connection to the shootings in San Bernardino on Thursday in Redlands, Calif. A heavily armed man and woman opened fire Wednesday on a holiday banquet for his co-workers, killing multiple people and seriously wounding others in a precision assault, authorities said. RINGO H.W. CHIU/THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

California gunman met radicals online

MASS SHOOTING

The motives of San Bernardino attackers are still unclear

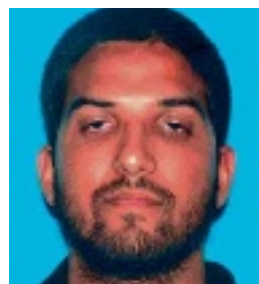
San Bernardino gunman Syed Rizwan Farook had been in contact with known extremists on social media, a U.S. intelligence official said Thursday, and police said he and his wife had enough bullets and bombs to slaughter hundreds when they launched their deadly attack on a holiday party.

The details came to light as in-

vestigators tried to determine whether the rampage that left 14 people dead was terrorism, a workplace grudge or some combination.

The husband-and-wife killers were not on the FBI's radar before the massacre, said a second U.S. official, who likewise spoke on condition of anonymity because he was not authorized to discuss the investigation.

Wearing black tactical gear



Syed Rizwan Farook, the suspect, is shown here.

THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

and wielding assault rifles, Farook, a 28-year-old county restaurant inspector, and his wife, Tashfeen Malik, 27, sprayed as many as 75 rounds into a room at a social service centre for the disabled, where Farook's co-workers had gathered for a holiday banquet Wednesday.

Farook had attended the event but slipped out at some point, then returned in battle dress.

Four hours later and two miles away, the couple died in a furious gunbattle in which they fired 76 rounds, while 23 law officers unleashed about 380, police said.

The couple left behind three rigged-together pipe bombs with a remote-control detonating device that apparently malfunctioned, and they had more than 1,600 rounds of ammunition left when police killed them in their rented SUV, Burguan said.

A U.S. official says the FBI was treating the mass shooting in California as a potential act of terror but had reached no conclusion it was.

THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

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Mergers worry small brewers

BRANDING

Giants killing innovation, craft beer makers say

The proposed consolidation of the world's biggest beer companies has given rise to concerns that it could be harder for Canada's small brewers to sell their brands in local bars.

"Traditionally, big companies merging to become even bigger companies tends to have a little bit of a chilling effect on innovation and small companies," said Jason Fisher, owner of the Indie Ale House, a Toronto brewhouse. "You want to go to a sporting event, they own that venue. You want to go to a concert, they own that venue. You want to buy beer at a store, they own those too."

Large brewers use their financial firepower for mar-

keting and sponsorships to increase awareness of their brands and buy up more beer tap lines to dominate distribution in bars and restaurants.

SABMiller recently agreed to a \$107-billion US takeover by Anheuser-Busch InBev in a merger of the world's two largest brewers. Molson Coors is poised to nearly double its size after agreeing to spend \$12 billion US for SABMiller's share of Miller Coors and Miller's International brands, including those sold in Canada.



You want to go to a sporting event, they own that venue ... You want to buy beer at a store, they own those too.

Jason Fisher

Molson Coors and InBev together control about 71 per cent of the Canadian beer market, according to market research firm Ibis World.

Ibis said the craft brewing phenomenon that has taken the U.S. beer market by storm has not been as significant in Canada, largely because it is more difficult to enter the market with provincial regulations about distribution. However, the popularity of craft beer has been rising across Canada for years. While overall beer consumption declined by six per cent in 2014, craft beer servings grew by seven per cent, according to data research company NPD Group.

Beer giants have responded by buying up craft beer companies. Over the last decade, Molson Coors has acquired Creemore Springs and Granville Island, while Labatt's recently bought Mill Street Brewery and Turning Point Brewery.

THE CANADIAN PRESS



TECHNOLOGY TOYOTA BETS BIG ON 'PARTNER ROBOTS' Akifumi Tamaki, Toyota's robot division general manager, speaks with the auto maker's one-armed "partner robot" at the International Robot exhibition in Tokyo on Wednesday. The R2-D2 lookalike is spearheading Toyota's ambitions to become a significant player in the growing market for robots that help the elderly and other people get around in everyday life. SHIZUO KAMBAYASHI/THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

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ENERGY

Google doubles green power

Google is nearly doubling the amount of renewable energy feeding its massive data centres that enable more than 1 billion people to search for information, watch video clips and communicate.

The long-term commitments cover up to 842 megawatts of power that will flow from six wind and solar power projects scheduled to be finished within the next two years in the U.S., Chile and Sweden.

Some of the deals were signed several weeks ago, but Google timed its announce-

The goal

Google aims to have 3.6 gigawatts of renewable energy lined up by 2025.

ment to coincide with the UN conference in Paris that is exploring ways to reduce the volume of carbon emissions widely believed to be changing the Earth's climate.

Google has now signed contracts covering 2 gigawatts of

renewable energy — enough to power two million homes annually, based on Google's estimate that the renewable energy projects will generate an average of about 7.4 billion kilowatt hours of power.

The company has pledged to have all of its 14 data centres worldwide running on renewable energy as part of its quest to minimize the pollution caused by the rising demand for its Internet search engine, YouTube video service, Gmail, digital maps and other services. THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

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FACE OFF

Is the TPP good for Canadian music?

The Trans-Pacific Partnership (TPP), is a mammoth 6,000-page trade agreement among 12 nations, including Canada, the United States, Australia and Japan. It covers everything you could conceivably trade — from donkeys to dairy to Disney's Mickey Mouse. As the new Parliament prepares to assemble for the first time, reviewing this thing and debating whether to ratify it will be a top priority.



Especially controversial are the provisions that deal with Canadian culture (music, movies, books and more). Under the TPP, copyrighted works will enter the public domain — where they can be freely modified, published and shared — 70 years after the creator's death, rather than the current 50 years. So with the agreement, copyright holders, whether the artists themselves, their heirs or the companies that own the rights to their work, will be able to profit for 20 extra years.

Will this safeguard the rights of music-makers, who are struggling to stay afloat in the digital world? Or will it stifle Canadian creativity? Three experts weigh in.



DEADMAU5
TORSTAR NEWS SERVICE

No: It will hurt Canadian heritage



Michael Geist
University of Ottawa
Canada Research Chair in Internet and E-commerce Law

It's largely the music companies, and artists' heirs, that benefit from an extension of copyright protection. To the average Canadian creator, it doesn't mean very much. Economists say a longer copyright term has little to no effect on new creativity. Nobody woke up and said, "I'm not going to write the next great Canadian novel, because my heirs will get 50 years of profits rather than 70." A term of the life of the author plus 70 years means many works that are around today won't be public domain until the next century. For the vast majority of works, the commercial value runs its course in far less time. We're restricting Canadians' access to their own heritage. But if older works are made publicly available and free, we can leverage the public domain for education and to promote Canadian heritage. I'd like to see a registration system, where you have to renew copyright every 20 to 25 years. It would separate the high-value commercial items from the vast majority. Imagine if we were still paying the heirs of Shakespeare, and charging for the rights to adapt it, to put on the plays. There wouldn't be that incentive to create.

Yes: it will help the music industry survive



Robert Hutton
Executive Director
Canadian Music Publishers Association

Very often, Canadian artists punch above their weight internationally. And we were considered a weak copyright jurisdiction. We have to realize that intellectual property is intangible. It's not a physical product like a compact disc anymore; it flows freely across borders. It has to be globally managed. So uniformity of international copyright standards is a good thing in itself. The companies that own artistic works have invested in the artists over a period of time. The Canadian public benefits because companies use that money to invest in developing new talent. Composers and families continue to reap the benefits of copyrighted works. When we extend protection, we help preserve a declining revenue stream. If you really value Canadian music and want it to be made in the future, we need to find a way for artists to get sustainable income. What happened with the TPP, from our perspective, is fair.

Sort of: A balance is needed



Erik Ashdown, CEO
Indiloop, a Canadian tech start-up that allows users to create and share their own music and sound mixes

I have to look at both sides of the copyright debate. We're not here to steal or disrespect copyrighted music, but you don't want to stop people from being creative. Record labels should see remixing as a marketing opportunity. If people are remixing your music, it shows that people care and you have an audience. When (Canadian house-music star) Deadmau5 was remixed by the (much more famous DJ) Skrillex, it probably brought a lot more attention to Deadmau5's work than it otherwise would have gotten. Some people think record labels are evil. They're not. They're in it because they love music. Their industry has been cut in half. They want to hold on to a few million dollars per year by holding on to copyright. People are still willing to pay for Beatles albums, and to pay to cover Beatles songs. On the other hand, I see why people say "Don't they have enough money?" I think Paul McCartney's great-grandkids will be okay.

ROSEMARY WESTWOOD

metroview

Tackling violence against women: Where do we start?

I should be writing this column about violence against women, now.

It's just, violence against women — can you think of anything more broad? More pervasive? More global?

It's like saying, "Here's my opinion on poverty: It sucks."

Where do you start, and where do you end? Rape as weapon of war, and, for ISIL, of indoctrination. Domestic abuse. Statistics, courtesy of the international development agency Plan Canada, that say 120 million girls have experienced forced intercourse or sexual touching, and females make up 70 per cent of human trafficking victims. Or: One-quarter of Canadian girls will experience sexual violence.

Sunday marks another National Day of Remembrance and Action on Violence Against Women. The International Day for the Elimination of Violence Against Women was Nov. 25th. Those who work year-round in this area worry about the tokenism of a day, while fighting for airtime to galvanize us to action.

Activists will seek to incite your indignation, though it's hard to get worked up over everyday injustices. Just ask a panhandler.

One place to start is with the good news, such as the federal Liberals' promise for a "comprehensive" gender-violence strategy and inquiry into missing and murdered indigenous women.

"I think there's some new momentum that I'm quite optimistic about," Amanda Sussman, Plan Canada's head of policy and advocacy, told me. She pointed to the United Nation's new sustainable development goals for 2030, which are "drawing political attention and resources to the most vulnerable... adolescent girls, women and girls."

Another place to start is with the wider issues of violence, and how we need to end violence in men's lives, too. Undoing the pressure of gender norms on all people is among Plan's priorities, Sussman told me, painting the image of a man in a developing nation, living in extreme poverty, who must be the breadwinner for his family, but cannot.

"I think we have made mistake in the women's movement for some time not giving enough emphasis to that," she added.

Sussman, when we spoke, was sitting in the relative comfort of her Canadian life, fearing for the vulnerability of women and girl refugees, ripped away from their lives and protection.

"How do we spark the outrage?" she asked, and then suggested one last place to start: With ourselves. A day of action is a call to be "more vigilant than ever" in fighting the violence we witness. Individual actions count, she said. Maybe, start small.

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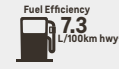
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In *Legend*, Tom Hardy plays identical twins and notorious gangsters Ronnie and Reginald Kray. HANDOUT

Tom Hardy is not your average guy

RETROSPECTIVE

Actor's small edgy roles deserve a double take

Richard Crouse
For Metro Canada



Like Wrigley's "Double your pleasure! Double your fun!" gum, this weekend's movie *Legend* is two Tom Hardys in one. He plays the dual roles of Britain's most notorious gangsters, Ronnie and Reginald Kray, identical twins and violent thugs who ruled London's underworld during the 1950s and 1960s.

Previously real-life siblings Martin and Gary Kemp of '80s

new wave band Spandau Ballet impersonated the brothers in the 1990 film *The Krays*, but these days special effects allow Hardy to play both brothers. "The movie's a testament to the Krays' ability to get away with everything, for a while, anyway," wrote Ty Burr in the *Boston Globe*. "But it's better evidence of Tom Hardy's ability to do just about anything."

Already this year we've seen the talented actor in the *Mad Max* reboot *Fury Road*, the musical *London Road* and the crime thriller *Child 44*. Soon he'll play opposite Leonardo DiCaprio in *The Revenant* and is currently shooting *Taboo*, a new BBC mini series scheduled to air next year.

He's also made waves as *The Dark Knight Rises*' brooding hulk Bane and dream-dancer Eames in the megahit *Inception*.

MOVIE RATINGS by Richard Crouse

Legend ★★★
Youth ★★★★★
A Royal Night Out ★★★
I Smile Back ★★
Life ★★
Hitchcock/Truffaut ★★★★★

HOW RATING WORKS
★★★★★ SEE IT
★★★★ WORTHWHILE
★★★ UP TO YOU
★ SKIP IT

In between these box office busters he's appeared in smaller, edgier films that deserve a look. Here are some of the other films that have helped Tom Hardy become legend.

Hillbilly Hardy: *Lawless* takes place during Prohibition. The bootlegging business is booming, run by hillbillies who'll sell to anyone with a buck and a thirst. The most notorious are the Bondurant family; headed by Forrest (Hardy)

who engages in a knock down, drag out moonshine war with a corrupt lawman played by Guy Pearce. Hardy leads the cast as a soft-spoken thug with a brainy bent. "It's not the violence that sets men apart," he says, "it's the distance he is prepared to go."

When he isn't waxing philosophical he's busy earning most of the film's few laughs. It's a natural, unaffected performance that really shows what he can do without a mask strapped to his face.

Solo Hardy:

In these days of maximalist moviemaking *Locke* goes the opposite way, trimming the movie down to one claustrophobic setting and a single on-screen actor. *Locke* is the first movie in recent memory that would probably work as well as a radio drama as it does a film. Hardy is Ivan Locke, a straight arrow construction foreman determined to be at the birth of his child. In his car, he's battling traffic for the hour-and-a-half drive to London and the mother-to-be's hospital. Trouble is, the child is the result of a lonely one-night stand and he's a married man.

The entire film takes place in the front seat of Locke's car, in real time, as he drives the M1. We see through the windshield, into the backseat and the display screen of car phone and GPS. Most of all we see Hardy's face,

which, even though obscured by a beard, still allows his charisma to ooze through. His face is the engine of the film, his talent the driver.

Hardheaded Hardy:

In *The Drop*, Hardy he plays Bob Saginowski, a mild mannered bartender at a Brooklyn neighbourhood pub owned by the Chechnyan mafia. Like many of the borough's bars, Marv's is sometimes used as a "drop," a place where gangsters secretly hide money until it is collected by their crime bosses.

As Bob, Hardy is a cypher; kind to dogs, shy and lovesick, he is an average neighbourhood guy. Except in this neighbourhood average guys have pasts, and Hardy does a nice job of playing a man who is trying to move on while the past tries to stop him in his tracks.

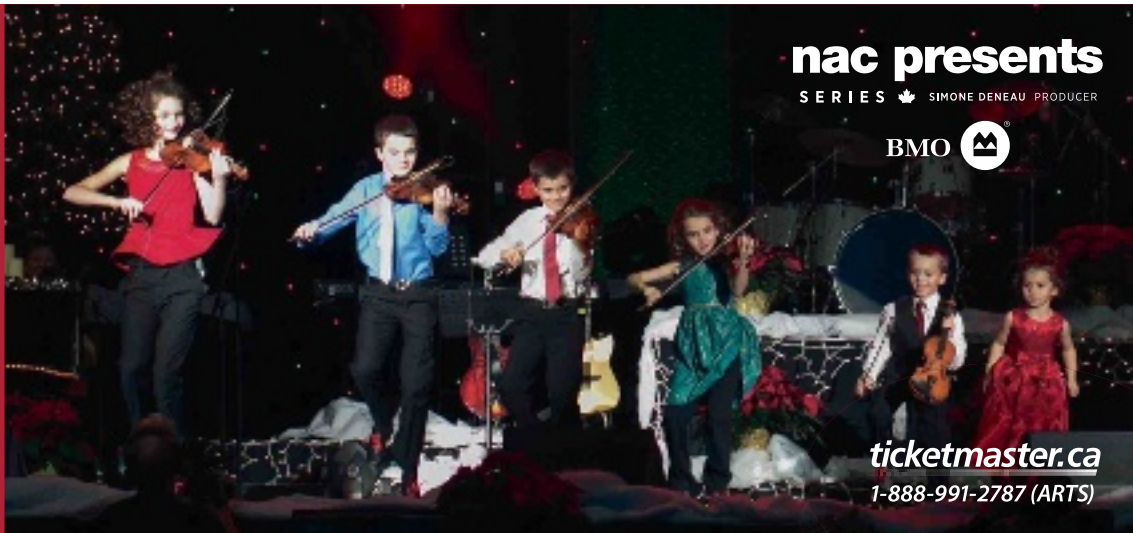


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Starring: Raymond Ochoa, Jeffrey Wright

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ROTTEN TOMATOES™ SCORE
Critics: Audience:
 81% **81%**



DRAMA
Trumbo
Director: Jay Roach
Starring: Bryan Cranston, Alan Tudyk

In 1947, Dalton Trumbo was Hollywood's top screenwriter until he and other artists were jailed and blacklisted for their political beliefs. The film recounts how Dalton used words and wit to win two Academy Awards and expose the absurdity and injustice under the blacklist.

ROTTEN TOMATOES™ SCORE
Critics: Audience:
 73% **76%**



DRAMA
Creed
Director: Ryan Coogler
Starring: Sylvester Stallone, Michael B. Jordan

Adonis Johnson never knew his famous father, world heavy weight champion Apollo Creed, who died before he was born. Still, there's no denying that boxing is in his blood, so Adonis heads to Philadelphia, the site of Apollo Creed's legendary match with Rocky Balboa.

ROTTEN TOMATOES™ SCORE
Critics: Audience:
 92% **96%**



DRAMA
Victor Frankenstein
Director: Paul McGuigan
Starring: James McAvoy, Daniel Radcliffe

James McAvoy and Daniel Radcliffe star in a dynamic and thrilling twist on a legendary tale. Radical scientist Victor Frankenstein and his equally brilliant protégé Igor Strausman share a noble vision of aiding humanity.

ROTTEN TOMATOES™ SCORE
Critics: Audience:
 22% **54%**



ART HOUSE
Legend
Director: Brian Helgeland
Starring: Tom Hardy, Emily Browning

The true story of the rise and fall of London's most notorious gangsters, Reggie and Ronnie Kray, who captivated the public and lorded over a criminal empire. This classic thriller takes us into the secret history of the 1960s and the extraordinary events that secured the infamy of the Kray Twins.

ROTTEN TOMATOES™ SCORE
Critics: Audience:
 60% **73%**



HORROR
Krampus
Director: Michael Dougherty
Starring: Toni Collette, Adam Scott

When his dysfunctional family clashes over the holidays, Max is disillusioned and turns his back on Christmas. Little does he know, this lack of festive spirit has unleashed the wrath of Krampus: a demonic force of ancient evil intent on punishing non-believers.

ROTTEN TOMATOES™ SCORE
Critics: Audience:
NOT YET REVIEWED **+93%**

Michael Caine reflects on a life in showbiz

PROFILE
From Youth to old age, actor opens up about career

Michael Caine sits down for lunch at the St. Regis Hotel in midtown New York clutching a copy of the day's Daily News given to him by the hotel doorman, who's earmarked a photo of Caine and his Youth co-star Jane Fonda.

"You wonder why I stay here," he chuckles. "I always remember the sort of joke thing in the British paper where the journalist said to the duchess, 'What's the best restaurant in London?' And she said, 'Where you're known, dear.' And I apply that to a lot of what I do."

Caine, 82, is known just about everywhere. Some know him as the star of British classics like Alfie, The Italian Job and Get Carter. Others know him as Batman's butler (and a regular of just about every Christopher Nolan movie). Some might even know him just by the ubiquitous impressions of his indelible cockney accent, like Steve Coogan and



In Youth, Caine plays a retired classical composer and conductor alongside Paul Dano. CONTRIBUTED

Rob Brydon's dueling Michael Caines in The Trip.

In Paolo Sorrentino's Youth, Caine puts a capstone on a career that has travelled from working-class upstart to cinema institution. Like most things in life, he's enjoying it.

Working now and then, Caine lives relatively quietly, focused

on his family; he and his wife, Shakira Baksh, are moving from their updated barn outside London, so their 25-minute drive to their grandchildren can be cut down to 5. But he's also soaking up the adulation for his aged classical composer in Youth, which some think could land him his sixth Oscar nomination.

"I've been nominated (for best actor) four times and I have never won," he says, smiling. "I fly for 11 hours to clap another actor and then go home. It's a long way! So I'm not exactly clearing shelves. I've got two Oscars, anyway."

Sorrentino, the Italian director of the Oscar-winning The

Great Beauty, wanted Caine for his combination of authority and levity — a description that hits on Caine's unique blend of good cheer and gravitas. Caine first struck Sorrentino in Woody Allen's Hannah and her Sisters: "When I saw that, I thought: I would like to be like Michael

Caine in life." Wouldn't we all. Though Caine doesn't share his character's melancholy or regret he's similarly reflective — a two-time memoirist and an eager, colourful storyteller. "They say I'm a raconteur but what are you going to do?" he said. "There are stories to tell."

THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

EARLY DAYS

On coming to Hollywood
"The first party I went to in Hollywood, Shirley MacLaine gave to welcome me to Hollywood. The first people to walk in were Gloria Swanson and Frank Sinatra. I was dumbstruck. Then she took me to dinner at Danny Kaye's house. There were only two other people there. One was Cary Grant and the other one was Prince Philip. I'm sitting there. I've been in Hollywood for three weeks. I took Shirley home. She lived in the Valley. As we got near to her home, I said, 'Look! Your house is on fire.' She said, 'Michael, that's steam from the pool.'"

QUOTE
"What am I going to do? Sit around and watch soaps on television all day? That's why I never retired."
Michael Caine

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The dark side of holiday movies

ROUNDUP

Black Christmas isn't the only film to trade tinsel for terror

Richard Crouse
For Metro Canada



Without Black Christmas, a groundbreaking 1974 Canadian horror film there might never have been a Jason Voorhees, Freddy Krueger or Michael Myers. These characters owe much to one film made in Toronto, a movie Film Threat magazine calls "the first modern slasher movie."

The film enters its fourth decade this year, a milestone celebrated with the release of Black Christmas, the Season's Grievings Edition in late November. The story of a sorority house terrorized by a murderous stranger has been given the deluxe Blu-ray treatment, packed with a Santa's sleigh of new features. It is one of the great Christmas horror movies, but it isn't the only one.

Here's a look at holiday films without an ounce of tinsel treacle.

Silent Night, Deadly Night

Originally called Slayride, this movie about a teen who goes on a murderous rampage dressed as Santa after his parents are killed, changed its name for release. In its first weekend it out-grossed Nightmare on Elm Street, but then parents angry at Santa's portrayal as an axe murderer picketed theatres, and the box office dried up. The film's final lump of coal was a review from Siskel and Ebert that consisted of reading the credits and saying "Shame" after each name.

The Nightmare Before Christmas

Imagine if our collective image of Santa Claus had been shaped by Allegory of Gluttony and Lust painter Hieronymus Bosch instead of some nameless commercial artist at Coca-Cola and you'll get an idea of the dark edge of Tim Burton's The Nightmare Before Christmas. The jolly fat man in the red suit is gone, hijacked by a skeleton in a pinstriped suit. The story of the mayor of Halloweentown who kidnaps and impersonates 'Sandy Claws' to bring his own brand of good will to the world is a Disney release but it is one of the rare ones that isn't meant for the entire family.

Santa Claus

K. Gordon Murray was a film producer best known for snapping up the rights to foreign films, dubbing them into English for American audiences. His best-known pick-up was Santa Claus, a strange Yuletide flick about St. Nick and Merlin doing battle with Lucifer.

Originally produced in Spanish and featuring a Santa Claus who doesn't live at the North Pole, but above it, in a magic castle in outer space, it isn't exactly scary, but may be the weirdest movie on this list.

Elves

When most people think of Dan Haggerty visions of the gruff but kind-hearted mountain man from the 1970s TV show The Life and Times of Grizzly Adams come to mind. B-movie fans, however, remember him as Mike McGavin, a down-on-his-luck department store Santa who does battle with a bloodthirsty Nazi elf in Elves.

It suffers from cheesy dialogue — "I had a rough day at work... Santa got murdered" — and the fact that a movie called Elves features only one elf, but

it's so ho-ho-ho-horrible it's fun to watch.

Silent Night, Zombie Night Walking Dead fans might get a charge out of Silent Night, Zombie Night, a Christmas viral outbreak movie so realistic a concerned citizen called the police during filming, citing gang violence.

The LAPD showed up by foot, car and air only to find movie zombies battling with prop weapons.

Christmas Evil

Christmas Evil is the best of the Santa as serial killer

movies and before you ask, there are quite a few of them. In this one a boy is traumatized after walking in on his parents in flagrante with dad dressed as Santa.

He develops daddy issues and a Santa fixation and one Christmas Eve brings murder home for the holidays. You better pray you're not on this Santa's list.



The 1974 Canadian made Black Christmas has been touted as the first modern slasher movie.

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The Nightmare Before Christmas. CONTRIBUTED

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THE TV DINNER JESSICA ALLEN



What I don't need is Friday Night Lights, the musical. That's right. Scott Porter will play Coach Taylor in an upcoming production

I've watched so much football in the last week that I can pretty much execute a pass rush and an end-around leading to a touchdown all at the same time.

Not like actual football — although I did tune in Sunday night to watch the Grey Cup — but movies about football, which, if we're being honest, are better paced.

I don't know what prompted the football-themed watching, nor do I want to because it would expose to both you and me my elementary stream of consciousness, which I'm guessing is similar to a dog — “Tree, pee, lick butt... squirrel!” We're better off not knowing.

But it started with We Are Marshall. “You've never seen it?” Simon asked of the 2006 movie starring Matthew McConaughey as a new coach who must put a college football team together after an unthinkable tragedy. “And you call yourself a sports movie lover?”

Next was Remember the Titans, the 2000 movie starring Denzel Washington as a new coach who must put a high school football team together after racial segregation ends.

On a roll now, I suggested we watch just the pilot of Friday Night Lights. We've already watched all six seasons but I wanted to revisit Coach

THE SHOW: Friday Night Lights



THE MEAL: Leftover pot roast



Taylor, Tami, Riggins and Saracen, for old time's sake.

After the pilot, we watched one more. But after that, Simon strongly suggested that we stop. “You will never top that episode,” he said. “Let's quit while we're ahead.”

“Yeah,” I said. “You're probably right.”

“What are you doing?”

“I can't stop and I won't stop. Is there a love scene in this damn show between Coach Taylor and Tami?” I asked, as I topped up our wine glasses with Tami Taylor-size pours. “Because that is what I need right now.”

What I don't need is Friday Night Lights, the musical. That's right. Scott Porter, the actor who played Jason Street in the television series, will apparently play Coach Taylor in an upcoming production.

“Whenever I read about non-musical stories being turned into musicals,” I told Simon as we sipped our wine on the couch, “I think it's got to be a joke, or an SNL skit. I mean, what's next? Rocky, the musical?”

“Uh, Rocky was a musical,” he said.

How can people suspend their disbelief long enough and not be cynical seeing football players singing? Like singing actual songs! That simply does not fit into my narrative of good sports movies. I want conflict, underdogs, tears and training sequences, not song and dance, unless it's in the end zone. That predictability is precisely what keeps me coming back to movies like Rocky, Breaking Away and Hoosiers, because it's comforting to know exactly what you're going to get.

Just like pot roast. But what no bookie would've placed odds on was that after our Sunday night pot roast accompanied by some FNL, we'd have leftovers. Actual leftovers! So on Monday night, with more FNL, we warmed up a baguette and topped it with the leftover roast, slivers of red onion and beautiful, bitter dandelion greens fried up in olive oil, garlic and chillies.

Clear eyes, full stomachs, can't lose.

MEMORABILIA

Ralphie's Red Ryder comes home for Christmas

A museum dedicated to A Christmas Story has acquired the holy grail of movie memorabilia: a Red Ryder BB gun wielded by Ralphie in the be-

loved holiday film.

Visitors to the museum will get to lay eyes on the Christmas gift Ralphie longed for most of all: the “Red Ryder Carbine Action 200-shot Range Model air rifle with a

compass in the stock and this thing which tells time.”

Brian Jones, the owner of the house and museum, paid \$10,000 for it on an Internet auction site.

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BIOPIC

James Dean has inspired lead since acting school days

When Dane DeHaan was studying acting at UNC School of the Arts he had a poster of James Dean on his dorm wall.

DeHaan graduated in 2008 and has gone on to star in the HBO series *In Treatment*, and films like *Chronicle*, *The Place Beyond the Pines*, *Kill Your Darlings* and *The Amazing Spider-Man 2* but one thing hasn't changed.

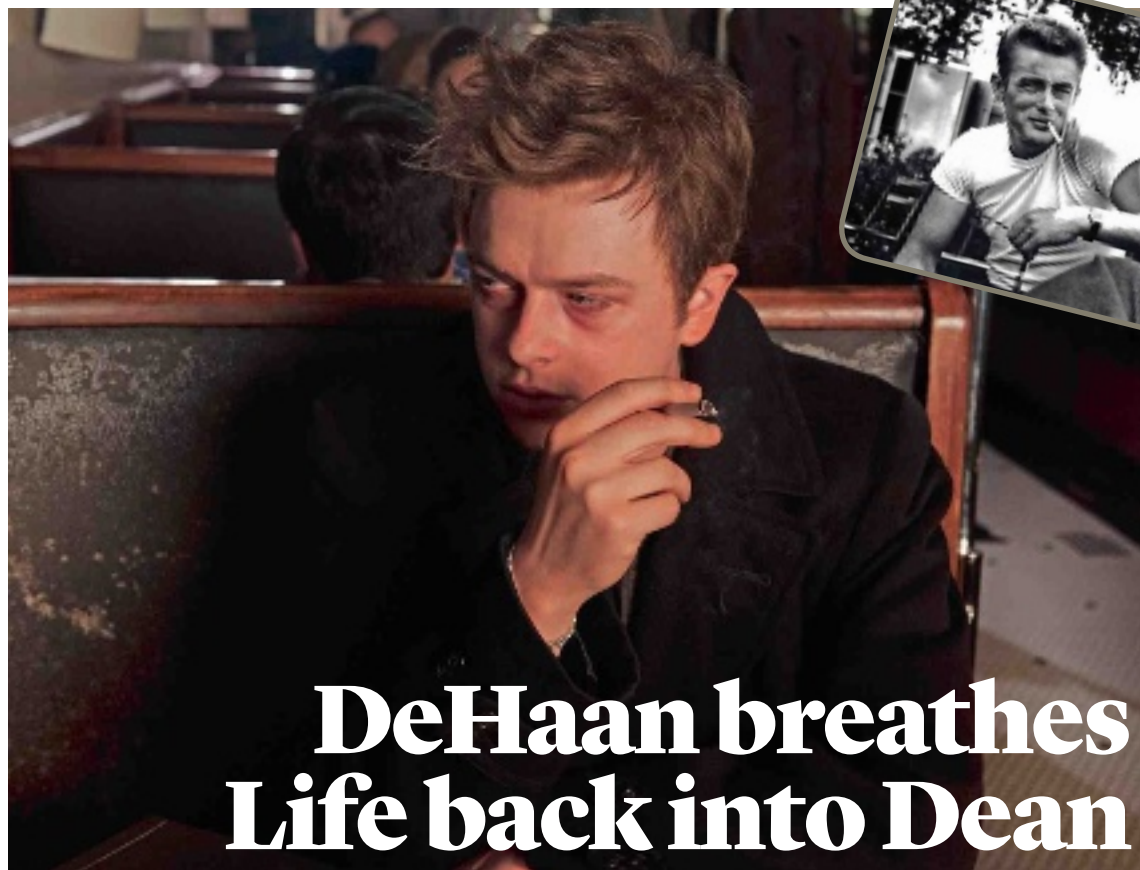
"The poster is still on my wall," he says on the line from his home. "I'm looking at it right now."

In new film *Life*, the 29-year-old actor plays Dean in 1955, just months away from the release of *East of Eden*. After a chance meeting a photographer, played by Robert Pattinson, becomes convinced the actor is the perfect subject. The two have an undeniable bond but Dean is hesitant, leery of exposing himself to the publicity machine.

DeHaan, who gained 25 pounds to play the screen icon, calls Dean one of his favourite actors.

"I was learning about acting and my acting teacher told us to go home and watch Marlon Brando and James Dean movies. I started watching them and he was just amazing. It was amazing to watch someone start the revolution of the kind of acting that most people do today but do it in such a beautiful way.

"It's so exciting to watch those movies and see James Dean existing in this world with all these other over-the-top



DeHaan breathes Life back into Dean

actors and just take them to school. The contrast was so jarring. Now you see a movie and there are obviously people who are better than others, but generally they're trying to do the same kind

of acting. In those movies that's not really happening."

DeHaan, who will soon be seen playing another real life character, Karl Rove in *Young Americans*, says "people

think they know a lot about Dean but not many people really know much about him at all," and hope *Life* will change that.

"Ultimately that was one of the rea-

DEAN ONSCREEN

Dane DeHaan joins a long list of people who have played Dean since the icon's death in 1955.

James Franco became a star, and won a Golden Globe, playing the rebellious actor in the TV biopic *James Dean*. Franco got so into character he went from non-smoker to a two-pack-a-day habit — in real life Dean smoked more than two packs of unfiltered Chesterfields a day — and learned to ride a motorcycle.

In 1976, Stephen McHattie won praise playing Dean in the TV movie *James Dean* written by William Bast, Dean's best friend and roommate.

Also interesting is the video installation piece *Rebel* which features a female James Dean in the form of performer Nina Ljeti, and an *Animaniacs* episode featuring Slappy Squirrel giving Dean a class in method acting.

sons I took it on," he says. "I realized that there are a lot of young people who don't know who James Dean is, and that's a sad fact. I would hope you would watch his movies first and then watch our movie or watch our movie and then watch his. I hope it opens a door for a lot of people to rediscover him not just as a persona but as an amazing talent." RICHARD CROUSE/METRO

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FILM BRIEFS

Thor: Ragnarok gets third scriptwriter

Writer Stephany Folsom has joined the Thor script-writing team, according to The Hollywood Reporter.

Folsom (The Princess of North Sudan) follows Christopher Yost and Craig Kyle, who were working on the script prior. Another relatively new addition is director Taika Waititi (What We Do In the Shadows), who came on board in October. Actor Chris Hemsworth will be back as the eponymous Norse god, reportedly along side Mark Ruffalo as the Hulk. AFP

Jason Priestly to direct Phil Hartman biopic

Jason Priestley has been tapped to direct a biopic about late comedian Phil Hartman. The movie is tentatively titled Nice Guy Phil and will feature actor Daran Norris as the Saturday Night Live star. Producer Tyler Levine says Norris's similarity to Hartman is "uncanny." Priestley adds that he met Hartman, a Brantford, Ont.-native, when he hosted SNL in 1995. THE CANADIAN PRESS

BOX OFFICE

Could Star Wars VII overtake Avatar?



Star Wars: The Force Awakens, is projected to make more than \$2 billion at the box office. HANDOUT

Is the James Cameron movie a few weeks away from losing its number one ranking at the global box office? At any rate, it seems that the future is rosy for the new episode of the Star Wars saga.

The seventh episode, slated for release on December 16, is expected to generate some big numbers, but how much exactly?

Some analysts are already predicting a final total of 2.7 billion dollars at the box office, i.e., as much as Avatar, which has held the global box-office record since 2010. The most optimistic analysts believe it could be the first film to top 3 billion dollars.

Star Wars VII will be released at the same time of year as Avatar and Titanic (respectively on December 18, 2009 and December 19, 1997), the movie industry's two biggest global successes.

One thing is sure, the J.J. Abrams opus is likely to begin with a bang. Forecasts, such as that of FBR & Co's Barton Crockett, foresee \$220m for the opening weekend. A record that would topple Jurassic World, which took in \$208.8m when it was released last June. With record advance ticket sales (\$50m), Star Wars is sure to get off to a better start than Avatar which brought in \$77m in its opening weekend. AFP

(cue angels singing)

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COOKING SHOW

All too brief taste of Top Chef

Thursday night I got to make my big-time reality TV debut — sort of. If you watched the premiere of the 13th season of Top Chef, you might have spotted me. Or maybe not, if you blinked.

The thing about cooking competition shows like Top Chef that have always bugged me is that you can't taste what the contestants are whipping up. On something like Project

Runway, you can see the work they've created and form your own opinion, but with food you have to take the judge's word for how it tastes. Or at least I had to until last night, when I got to be one of the people tasting that food.

As for actually making the final broadcast, a sinking feeling set in when it became clear that my comments on the merits of the various dishes

had been edited out. I thought I had some interesting things to say, but apparently not.

I did at least get some quality screen time when Lakshmi and Colicchio sauntered in front of me for one of the episode's more awkward moments — waiting for contestant Garret Fleming's handmade noodles to be ready. Look, ma! I'm on TV! In the background, at least.

NED EHRBAR/METRO HOLLYWOOD



In *I Smile Back*, Sarah Silverman plays a suburban mother struggling with depression. CONTRIBUTED

Silverman on her serious film role

I SMILE BACK

Actress got gig after sharing her experience with depression

Steve Gow
For Metro Canada



Whether it's Adam Sandler, Jim Carrey or even Oscar-winner Mo'Nique, people are shocked when they see their favourite comedians take on serious roles.

However, to cinema's latest crossover thespian, the two worlds go hand-in-hand.

"I don't think it's a new conceit that comedy and drama are adjacent at the very least," explained comedian Sarah Silverman recently.

In Toronto to discuss the debut of her new drama *I Smile Back* during the Toronto International Film Festival in Sep-

tember, the provocative entertainer agrees that behind comedy's veneer of laughter lies a rather shadowy secret of manic depression.

Indeed, a British study recently noted that humorists score higher for psychological traits like suicide and depression than the general public. Silverman adds, "I had a lot of stuff to draw from that a lot of comedians would."

With *I Smile Back*, Silverman is getting rave reviews for her riveting portrayal of a suburbanite mother struggling with such a spell of depression that she dulls her pain with drugs, alcohol and acts of compulsion at the risk of her family and health.

"I've never been purposely looking for anything (serious)," insisted Silverman, who admits the role was offered after author Amy Koppelman heard the comedian discussing her own battle with depression on Howard Stern's radio show.

"To be honest, I didn't think

it would ever get made (so) I didn't think about it at all which was probably good because then it happened and it was too late to back out."

The truth is, she did take a leap of faith for the role — a decision that is now accruing such critical praise for Silverman as "chilling" and "scarily good."

If nothing else, *I Smile Back* definitely shows that comedian's fearlessness isn't just limited to the stage — illustrated by the film's prolonged scenes of stark emotional strife and unglamorous nudity.

"I was nervous about some of the sex scenes but (co-stars) Tommy Sadoski and Josh Charles were so — and I roll my eyes when I hear actors say this but now I get it — they were so generous," laughed Silverman, taking the attention in stride.

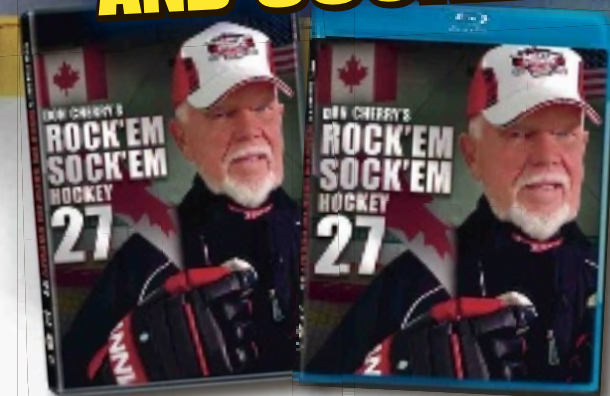
"It's funny — I was never asked to be naked in anything until I turned 40 and then I'm asked to be naked in everything — which I kind of love."

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HOT THINGS TO DO IN BARBADOS

This past Monday marked the start of one big, yearlong party in Barbados to celebrate 50 years of independence from Britain — your presence may just be required. Why not start planning your trip now?

DOUG WALLACE METRO



Frying it up at Oistins Bay Gardens. DOUG WALLACE

1 Eat local

The street food trucks and rum-shop takeout counters are crowded with locals and tourists for good reason: They harbour some of the most delicious home cooking you will ever taste. The Oistins fish fry is a Friday-night highlight, with dozens of market stalls sizzling with goodness. And the lineups at Cuz's Fish Stand in the Garrison in Bridgetown are so healthy on weekdays, he takes the weekend off.



Mount Gay is the world's oldest rum brand. DOUG WALLACE

2 Try the rum

Barbados is by all accounts the birthplace of rum. Mega-distiller Mount Gay dates back to 1703, when it was discovered that the molasses they had been discarding after processing the sugar cane fermented quite nicely. Traditional rum "shops," roadside one-room bars where people gather to watch cricket and play dominos, are scattered throughout Barbados. Don't be afraid to belly up for a rum punch or a Banks beer.



The beach at Saint Peter's Bay. CONTRIBUTED

3 Head to the beach

The west and south coasts offer one beach of finely ground coral sand after another — take your pick. Then take a catamaran cruise, go kayaking or paddle-boarding, or just sit on a lounge and enjoy the million different shades of blue.

There are also dozens of dive sites to sink your mask into, with Barbados Blue at Needham's Point Pebbles Beach being the dive shop of choice — an excellent launching point for shipwrecks in Carlisle Bay.



Roiling surf at Bathsheba Bay. DOUG WALLACE

4 Catch a wave

The easygoing east side of Barbados is where locals go to relax on the weekend — or surf. A day trip to the rugged Atlantic coastline of Bathsheba will reveal stunning views, plus a few hints of the island's colonial past, particularly if you venture into the Atlantis Hotel, which dates back to the 1880s. Make a pit stop on the patio before taking a hike along the old railway tracks to watch the surfers at the Soup Bowl, a world-famous reef break.



Watch local and international polo matches. DOUG WALLACE

5 Cheer on the ponies

When the beach gets boring, head to the sports pitch. Cricket isn't the only game in town, either. The popularity of polo in Barbados reaches back to the island's colonial roots, the first match being played in 1884. The Polo Club regulates four playing fields, welcoming international teams in a season that runs from January through May. Prince Charles and Prince Harry have both played polo here many times.

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Panama on the cusp of shining brightly

ON THE MOVE

A wild rafting tour just one way to see this lively country

Loren Christie
For Metro Canada



On Day 4 of a G Adventures trip to Panama a protest over government infrastructure projects by the local indigenous people forced our group of 15 intrepid travellers off the bus and into the heat for almost two hours.

Happily a nearby store, equipped with basic bathrooms guarded by chickens, sold us some beers to enjoy while we waited it out. The experience was a little uncomfortable but charmingly genuine and typical of what to expect when travelling in Panama, Central America's diamond in the rough.

Boquete offers limited services in terms of restaurants and hotels but is doing an admirable job staking its claim as Panama's adventure capital.

Located close to the Costa Rican border, the town is set within a lush mountain valley dotted with coffee plantations and offers travellers a variety of hard and soft experiences from zip-lining and horseback riding to a variety of hikes including an overnight journey up an extinct volcano.

“

UNESCO-protected Casco Viejo is what I suspect Havana will look like in 10 years.

I took a whitewater rafting tour through some intimidating rapids that saw my 200-pound raft mate swept over the side! While I was definitely thankful for our fearless guide, Tini, I was more thankful to have the river to ourselves; we did not see one other raft during our four-hour excursion.

Our destination on Day 4 was Bocas Del Toro, a collection of beautiful palm tree-covered islands that are mostly

populated by surfboard-toting backpackers. The only town of any size, Bocas Town, is mostly made up of hostels and waterfront bars and exudes a laid-back charm. Chatting over morning coffee at The Coffee Shop with owner and self-professed soul surfer Ernesto Velasquez was as much a highlight as spotting baby dolphins and sloths on a boat trip to Coral Cay.

Panama City's UNESCO-protected Casco Viejo is what I suspect Havana will look like in 10 years if the Cuban capital receives the predicted influx of American cash. The formerly derelict colonial buildings in the Panamanian capital are well into the process of being restored to their former grandeur. Many are already home to funky bars, incredible restaurants and shops.

I ate my last dinner at The Fish Market, a pop-up food truck parked in the middle of the crumbling walls and columns of a yet-to-be-reclaimed building. The white wine was terrible, the fish tacos were good, but the energy I felt from a place that is truly on the cusp of shining brightly was infectious.



The Coffee Shop in Bocas Town on Isla Colon, with owner Ernesto. PETER REMUS

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Lights beckon in Lower Manhattan

NEW YORK

‘Mood ring’ museum among new draws in neighbourhood

On a dark December night, a canopy of lights glitters across Lower Manhattan, and not just from One World Trade and the other downtown skyscrapers. The neighbourhood sparkles with new attractions, from the otherworldly glow of the SeaGlass carousel in Battery Park to a colorful, choreographed light show called Luminaries at the Winter Garden.

You’ll also find upscale shopping, outdoor art, 22 hotels and many dining options. Here are some details.

SeaGlass Carousel

The SeaGlass Carousel is unlike any merry-go-round you’ve ever ridden. No toothy wooden horses and vintage organ music here. Instead, the glowing, pastel seats are shaped like seashells that spin and weave while a soaring, dreamlike soundtrack plays. The attrac-



Several globes from the Cool Globes public art installation in Lower Manhattan, with One World Trade in the background. PHOTOS BY BETH J. HARPAZ/THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

tion is located in Battery Park at the tip of Lower Manhattan, a short walk from the boats to the Statue of Liberty and Ellis Island. The Staten Island Ferry terminal is nearby as well, with free trips across New York Har-

bor 24 hours a day.

Pier A

Not far from the carousel heading west along the waterfront is Pier A Harbor House, a landmark building that dates to

1886. It now houses several dining options, with lovely views of the water on one side and on the other side, the skyscraper canyons of the financial district — increasingly known as FiDi — highlighted by One



A cheese display at Le District, a French food hall at the World Financial Center.

World Trade. Menus range from fun pub fare to oysters, lobster and other seafood. A plaza surrounding the building entrance is dotted with 12 large, colourful Cool Globes. The globes are a public art installation on view until April, designed to raise awareness about global warming.

World Financial Center

This building just west of One World Trade on the Hudson River offers shopping, food and a respite from the hustle and bustle of the streets outside. Enter at Brookfield Place and check out the upscale retail-

ers, from Gucci and Ferragamo to Diane von Furstenberg and Michael Kors. Then make your way to the Winter Garden, a vaulted glass atrium 10 storeys high. New for the holiday season, through Jan. 10, is Luminaries, a free, colourful, hypnotic light installation that bathes the atrium in a choreographed palette of moody blues, lavenders and other hues from 650 hanging lanterns.

Also onsite is Le District, a French food hall where you’ll find crepes, coffee, cheese, sandwiches, fresh produce, flowers and more. And until Dec. 15, just outside Brookfield on the waterfront is a free interactive exhibit called the Museum of Feelings, billed as a “mood ring of the city” that changes colours based on visitors’ emotions. Be prepared for long lines to enter the museum.

One World Trade

A visit to the serene and moving 9/11 Memorial park adjacent to One World Trade is a must for any trip to New York City. Other options for visitors include the 9/11 museum and the tower observatory.

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Steer clear of those office party pitfalls

ETIQUETTE

Have a good time without leaving a bad impression

Astrid Van Den Broek

So you know not to drink too much. You know this isn't the time to bust out your best Sweet Caroline on the company stage. You know that you and Chris from accounting shouldn't smooch it up in the corner.

But what etiquette tips are you missing? Here are a few lesser-known ideas on how to behave at this year's company Christmas party.

Tell them you're coming
"I hear from employers a lot that a certain generation of people do not know how to RSVP or choose not to," says Wendy E. Mencil, an etiquette consultant with the Canadian School of Protocol and Etiquette in London, Ont. "It's a huge issue with employees in their 20s."

Make a point of RSVP'ing to your invitation as soon as possible to help your bosses figure out how many canapés they need to order.

Do your homework
Find out what kind of party it is beforehand: a casual gathering at your boss's house? A formal affair at a local restaurant? A beer and wings night at the pub? The location will likely



Have fun at your holiday party, but don't document every minute of it. SHUTTERSTOCK

dictate what kind of attire you should plan to wear.

Check yourself
OK, you're watching how many glasses of Merlot you're tipping back....but are you keeping track of how many times you've gone back to the chocolate desert fountain?

"Gorging on food at parties is another concern we hear from employers," says Mencil. "I know of one company who, after your first job interview, they invite you to a cocktail party to see how much you eat, drink and mingle...and then you get the second interview.

And this applies to a holiday party. If you spend all your time eating and not mingling, your boss will see it."

Save the shock and awe
In a polyamorous relationship? Got a wife who's 30 years older than you? This isn't the time to share it with the rest of the company.

"This can just bring up a whole bunch of questions that aren't appropriate for that day. Parties aren't a good time to share with people something about your personal life that they wouldn't have known," says Mencil.

Use social media smarts
Before you post anything on social media, gain the consent of those you've photographed.

"And don't ruin your career by taking pictures of your boss and putting it up," Mencil adds. Also don't tweet your way through the party.

Don't be a teacher's pet
Sure it's a good idea to put a face to your name and introduce yourself to the company president. "However it's not the time to talk business or ask for a raise," says Mencil.

HOLIDAY MUSIC

Rock, croon around the Christmas tree

Keith Carman

Holiday-themed albums have always been in vogue. From a fledgling career desperate for a foot in the door to a flailing chart-topper anxious to gain lost ground, everyone knows that belting out a few tracks about the "most wonderful time of the year" can set almost anything straight. Moreover, such efforts tend to warp genre barriers and break down walls.

Here are a few timeless classics and unforgettable gems from years gone by, as well as some newer affairs, waiting to find their place in the holiday legacy.

Elvis Presley Elvis' Christmas album RCA/Victor

Released at the height of his young career, Elvis' Christmas Album showcases the velvet-voiced crooner's take on Santa Claus Is Back In Town, I'll Be Home For Christmas and of course, Blue Christmas.

Bing Crosby White Christmas Decca

The pinnacle of seasonal albums, from its namesake track (reputedly the best-selling song of all time) through Silent Night and Silver Bells, this 1945 work from "The Old Groaner" is the undisputed Yuletide staple.

LeAnn Rimes Today Is Christmas Curb Records

Following up on last year's promise of a holiday trilogy, country icon LeAnn Rimes issues Today Is Christmas, the successor to 2014's One Christmas — Chapter 1. As expected, it's another mash-up of quintessential classics and originals.

**Earth, Wind & Fire
The Classic Christmas Album
Legacy Recordings**
While reissues generally happen a few years after an album has initially dropped, the popularity of Earth, Wind & Fire's 2014 seasonal offering Holiday was so welcomed, it is being released again this year under the The Classic Christmas Album moniker. Moreover, it's bolstered with an additional five cuts spanning E,W&F's storied legacy.

**The Carpenters
Christmas Collection
Legacy Recordings**
Uniting both Carpenters legendary Christmas albums, Christmas Collection is as awe-inspiring as it is cheery. Thank Karen Carpenter's unforgettable renditions of Ave Maria, Have Yourself A Merry Little Christmas, and more.

**Rockin' Rudolph
The Brian Setzer Orchestra
Surfdog Records**
Has it really been a decade since original Stray Cat/big beat guru Brian Setzer and his orchestra released a Christmas album? Surprisingly. Upping the ante with Rockin' Rudolph, the crew have a bit of fun with the likes of Yabba-Dabba Yuletide, Rockin' Around The Christmas Tree and 10 more swingin' songs for the season.

**The Misfits
Horror Xmas EP**
Punk rock icons more associated with Halloween than Christmas, even The Misfits jumped in to the game with limited edition EP Horror Xmas circa 2013. Uniting a cover of Dr. Seuss' You're A Mean One, Mr. Grinch with an original work and speedy take on Elvis gem Blue Christmas, this is a fun — albeit rare — seasonal treat.

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Etat Libre d'Orange Remarkable People

Warm and sweet with champagne, fruit and spice, this oriental fragrance is

for women and men. Give it to your other half with a "let's share" and a wink. \$107 at birchbox.ca.

Tory Birch Holiday Cracker and Candle

The fashion designer's signature crisp floral charms with festive wrapping; pair it with the luxurious candle scented with the same fragrance for home. \$31 and \$72 at Sephora, sephora.ca.



Atelier Cologne Neccessaire Azure Gift Set

Each of the four travel-sized atomizers in this collection is a fragrant escape to the Italian coast, evocative of deep blue



sky and sea, and sunny, citrus-scented breezes. \$32 at Sephora, sephora.ca.

Nina Ricci L'Extase

Deeply sensual with heady florals, musk, amber and caramel, this oriental is about smooth warm skin and rumpled, 1000-thread-count Egyptian cotton sheets. \$95 at Hudson's Bay, thebay.com.



Miu Miu Miu Miu

The first fragrance from Miuccia Prada's Miu Miu label is a bright, alluring floral perfume, youthful and sweet, with a hint of nostalgia. The only thing missing is a display case



for its unique and wonderful bottle. \$135 at Holt Renfrew, holtrenfrew.com.

Dior J'Adore Touche de Parfum

A new concept for Dior, this intensely floral dabber, anchored with musk and sandalwood, is designed to enhance whatever's spritzed on top... such as Poison or the J'Adore she already owns and loves. \$112 at Hudson's Bay, thebay.com.



The Body Shop Black Musk

Fourth in the very successful range that started with White Musk in 1981, this



dark and sweet gourmand-rich oriental floods the senses with marzipan, almond, licorice root, black vanilla and black musk. Choose from eau de toilette, eau de parfum and perfume oil — or give her all three. From \$25 at The Body Shop, thebodyshop.ca.



Tocca Beauty Eau de Parfum Wardrobe

An enchanting gift set of six enticingly feminine fragrances in utterly adorable, Instagram-worthy mini dabbers, this collection pretty much calls ahead to reserve prime real estate on her vanity. \$50 at Sephora, sephora.ca.

Aerin Lauder Rose de Grasse

An opulent, singular floral fragrance lauded (see what we did there?) for its plush, real-life bouquet scent, this gorgeous perfume is ideal for anyone who adores roses. \$205 at Estée Lauder, esteelauder.ca



For him:

SCENTS FOR HIM

Fragrance is all about personality. Our roundup has one for every guy on your "nice" list — and maybe your "naughty" list too.

Aramis Black

A new urban-man eau de toilette that goes from the office to happy hour, this scent starts with bold, crisp, green leafy notes and gradually develops its aromatic side — juniper wood sweetened with tonka bean and rich cognac, smoky leather and white incense. \$64 at Holt Renfrew, holtrenfrew.com.



Floris No. 89

A British scent released in 1951, this is for the well-dressed retro fellow in your life. A traditional woody aromatic with citrus and rose, it finishes with woods, moss and musk. Fun fact: Bond creator Ian Fleming was a fan. \$105 at menessentials.ca.



L'Occitane Eau de Cedrat

Could be his Monday-morning best mate, with its eye-opening burst of bright, citrusy bergamot, that soon softens to spicy nutmeg, ginger and smooth, woody notes. \$58 at L'Occitane en Provence, ca.loccitane.com.

Prada Luna Rossa Sport

Most "sport" scents are all about invigorating freshness. This eau de toilette is softer, warmer and sweeter, with juniper berries, lavender, vanilla and tonka beans. He'll wear it after the game, for congratulatory cocktails to celebrate his win. \$72 at Murale, murale.ca, and Shoppers Drug Mart, shoppersdrugmart.ca.



The Vagabond Prince Land of Warriors

For old-world warriors on horseback or tatted, modern weekend warriors on bikes — this niche eau de parfum is all about leather, worn-in like a well-loved moto jacket, with notes of rum, woods and tar. \$200 at menessentials.ca.



Giorgio Armani Acqua di Gio Profumo

A follow-up to immensely successful sea-and-citrus Acqua di Gio (which debuted almost 20 years ago), this elegant scent is a darker version, with marine and spicy notes that break over patchouli and incense. \$109 at Hudson's Bay, thebay.com.



Thierry Mugler A*Men Ultra Zest

Newest in Mugler's lineup of AMen scents, this bold eau de toilette opens with a splash of juicy sweet orange and ginger and develops with coffee notes, cinnamon, pepper, vanilla, patchouli and tonka. Mugler fans will dig it like dessert. Limited edition, \$99 at Shoppers Drug Mart, shoppersdrugmart.ca, and Jean Coutu, jeancoutu.com.



Penhaligon's Juniper Sling

For the guy who likes a good early hike followed by a hot toddy to temper the chill, this eau de toilette begins with the freshness of fragrant pine on a crisp morning and warms up with leather, cinnamon and cardamom, plus cherry, sugar and amber for a sweet hit. \$195 at menessentials.ca.



Valentino Uomo Edition Noire

The graphic matte black bottle broadcasts the personality of this eau de toilette, a potent oriental fragrance with cedar, hazelnut, leather, chocolate and roasted coffee bean notes. \$98 at Hudson's Bay, thebay.com.



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TECHNOLOGY

Smartphones offer a little of everything for everyone

Mike Yawney

It should come as no surprise Smartphones continue to be a top holiday gift. With powerful processors, incredible cameras, and hundreds of thousands of apps, they are the gift that keeps on giving.

Here are some of the best smartphones of the holiday season.

iPhone 6s Plus \$1,029 and up

Apple's latest smartphone is unlike any other. With 3D Touch, users can interact with the device in new ways by simply varying the amount pressure applied to the screen. The

12-megapixel camera snaps a amazing pictures in a variety of lighting conditions, and users can watch their images come to life with Live Photos, which add movement into every shot you snap. This is also the first iPhone to shoot 4k video (4 times the resolution of HD) with incredible image stabilization.

Nexus 6P \$699

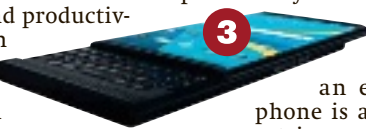
This flagship Android smartphone features Marshmallow, the latest version of Google's operating system. The beautiful 5.7-inch display is housed in a contoured aluminum body with front facing stereo speakers for top-notch audio. A fingerprint sensor keeps the device secure from prying eyes, while the 12-megapixel camera excels at shooting in environments with less than ideal lighting conditions.

BlackBerry Priv \$899

The very first BlackBerry to

run Google's Android operating system. This unique smartphone focuses on privacy and productivity. An oversized screen increases

productivity, while the sliding physical keyboard makes it easy to type. Since Priv runs Android, BlackBerry users will finally have access to hundreds of thousands of apps, something that has been lacking on BlackBerry devices.



Lumia 950 \$749

This first new Windows phone in nearly two years, the Lumia 950 features some high end specs and runs Windows 10 for ultimate productivity.

A 20-megapixel camera blurs the lines between point and shoot cameras and smartphones, plus you can also connect your Lumia 950 to the Microsoft Display Dock and use it with an external monitor, keyboard and mouse just like a full-fledged PC.



Samsung Galaxy S6 Edge+ \$949

A smartphone with a truly unique design. The stunning 5.7-inch display wraps around the edges for a one-of-a-kind viewing experience. Not only do games and apps look great, the outer edges provide shortcuts to apps and notifications, even when the phone is facedown.

One of the most useful features however has to be the ability to fully charge the phone in 120 minutes.



Motorola Moto G \$230

A budget-friendly smartphone with plenty of features. The quad-core processor means

blazing fast speed while using apps, or playing games, and you won't have to search for a plug-in as the battery is designed to last an entire day. The phone is also water resistant in up to three feet of water for up to 30 minutes, giving you peace of mind. You can also customize the colour of your phone with a

number of unique shells designed by Motorola.

HTC One A9 \$649

This Android smartphone features an edge-to-edge 5-inch high-definition screen, which displays 40 per cent more colour than normal LCD screens. Games and apps not only look good, they sound amazing.



- 1 iPhone 6s Plus, \$1,029 and up
- 2 Nexus 6P, \$699
- 3 BlackBerry Priv, \$899
- 4 Lumia 950, \$749
- 5 Samsung Galaxy S6 Edge+, \$949
- 6 Motorola Moto G, \$230
- 7 HTC One A9, \$649

All prices are based on the purchase of a phone without a contract.

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Find meaning with gift giving

FOR THE HOLIDAYS

Top tips: Listen up, be unique and find a theme

Astrid Van Den Broek

You finally did it. You've trimmed down your gift-giving list so you're giving out fewer chocolate truffle filled coffee mugs to people you barely know and thus can spend more on those nearest and dear to you.

So what to get when you've got a little bit of cash? How can you pick truly memorable gifts? We asked gift bloggers for their thoughts on selecting the perfect gift.

BE A LISTENER

"Listen closely to the people in your life," says Lindsay Roberts Schey, founder of the blog TheGiftInsider.com. "Many people unintentionally mention things they really

want or need or some may drop subtle hints at what they are really hoping for."

If you're not good at listening in, rely on how well you know them and give some thoughts to their interests and hobbies. "There are hundreds of gifts out there associated with even the most obscure hobbies and tastes," says Roberts Schey. "If you find a few smaller items, put them together in a themed gift set because everyone likes to get lots of presents."

Really stumped? "Another gift idea gold mine is a person's Pinterest or personal Facebook page," suggests Marie Anakee Miczak, the blogger behind gavethat.com.

GO FOR SOMETHING DIFFERENT

"Try to give experience-based gifts, such as a subscription box service, passes to the movies or a gift card to a local coffee shop," suggests Miczak. After all, don't we all have enough coffee mugs? Make it harmonize by packaging movie gift

certificates with a bag of liquorice or some packages of microwave popcorn to hit the theme home, or pair a lovely bath towel set with a bag of scented Epsom salts.

THINK UNIQUE...

... and something that you would like to get.

"The best gifts are the ones that people absolutely love but just wouldn't buy for themselves or would buy for themselves but you found it first," says Lisa Pozin, owner of Giving Gifts in Vancouver.

OR THEMED...

Like books, calendars or sports items. "Start the habit of having 'signature gift' for each type of person on your list," says Roberts Schey. "It saves you time and you end up having your own 'style' of gift-giving each season."

Also think about grouping items together to complete a theme if you can't find a substantial enough gift to give to someone on your list. Package them in a practical vessel like a chic ice bucket or square vase to complete the look, adds Roberts Schey.



How do you pick your gifts to elicit a response like this? ISTOCK



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Tiger dishes on downfall

GOLF
Woods says family is strong after ugly divorce

Tiger Woods says he has a “fantastic” relationship with his ex-wife and he has taken steps to explain to his two children what happened to their marriage.

In a rare and extensive interview with Time magazine, Woods shared the same sentiments about his future that he did Tuesday at the tournament he is hosting in the Bahamas. He still wants to play golf at the highest level, though he is resigned that it might not happen if the nerve damage in his back doesn’t allow for it.

The world’s former No. 1 player was interviewed by Canadian golf author Lorne Rubenstein at Woods’ new restaurant in Florida. They covered topics ranging from his greatest joy on the golf course to chipping sessions with Seve Ballesteros to his family.

Woods, who turns 40 on Dec. 30, says he has told eight-year-old Sam and six-year-old Charlie that his parents don’t live in the same house because “Daddy made some mistakes.”

“I just want them to understand before they get to the Internet age and they log on to something or have their friends tell them something,” Woods said. “I want it to come from me so that when they come of age, I’ll just tell them the



Tiger Woods last played in August at the Wyndham Championship in which he tied for 10th. KEVIN C. COX/GETTY IMAGES

real story.”

Woods’ marriage crumbled at the end of 2009 when he was exposed for having multiple extramarital affairs, and Elin Nordegren divorced him the following August. He endured leg injuries in 2011, got back to No. 1 in the world with eight victories in 2012 and 2013 and has been in a free fall because of back injuries since.

“It’s not what I want to have happen, and it’s not what I’m planning on having happen. But if it does, it does.”

Tiger Woods on speculation his career might be over

He had surgery to alleviate a pinched nerve the week before the 2014 Masters and has had two more procedures in the

same spot over the last three months.

“One, I don’t want to have another procedure,” Woods told

the magazine. “And two, even if I don’t come back and I don’t play again, I still want to have a quality of life with my kids. I started to lose that with the other surgeries.”

Woods last played on Aug. 23 when he tied for 10th and thought the pain he experienced was from his hip. Instead, it was a recurrence of his back problems. THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

PGA TOUR
3-way tie at the top in Bahamas

Paul Casey is off to a good start in his final chance to win a tournament this year.

Casey birdied the final hole at Albany Golf Club on Thursday for a 6-under 66 that gave him a share of the first-round lead with Jimmy Walker and Zach Johnson in the Hero World Challenge.

The scenery and tropical sunshine made it feel like a working vacation, and a gentle breeze off the tip of New Providence Island only added to the relaxation. Hideki Matsuyama (75) was the only player in the 18-man field who didn’t break par.

Defending champion Jordan Spieth made a hole-in-one with a 6-iron on the second hole and finally added a birdie on a par 5 to join a large group at 67 that included Bubba Watson and Adam Scott, who lives at Albany and still holds — barely — the course record of 65.

Casey is among five players in this field of top-50 players who has yet to win this year.

THE ASSOCIATED PRESS



Paul Casey GETTY IMAGES

BASEBALL

Maple Ridge player named top Canadian in minors

Outfielder Tyler O’Neill has been awarded the Canadian Baseball Network’s Randy Echlin Memorial Award as the top Canadian in the minors in the 2015 season.

O’Neill, from Maple Ridge, B.C., hit 32 home runs with the class-A Bakersfield Blaze in the Seattle Mariners farm system. The 20-year-old also helped Canada win gold at the Pan Am Games.

THE CANADIAN PRESS



BLUE JAYS HAVE NEW GM IN ATKINS Ross Atkins is the new general manager of the Toronto Blue Jays. The team says he will also serve as executive vice-president of baseball operations. Atkins most recently served as the Cleveland Indians’ vice-president of player personnel under new Blue Jays president Mark Shapiro. MICHAEL CHRITTON/AKRON BEACON JOURNAL FILE

MLB
Navarro snags deal with ChiSox

The Blue Jays are in the market for a new backup catcher after free-agent backstop Dioner Navarro reportedly signed a one-year deal with the Chicago White Sox on Thursday.

The deal, which hasn’t been officially announced by the club, is pending a physical, according to Fox Sports’ Ken Rosenthal.

Navarro, 31, spent two seasons in Toronto after signing an \$8-million contract in 2013 to replace J.P. Arencibia. He was the Jays’ starting catcher in 2014, but was relegated to backup duty after the team signed Russell Martin a year ago.



Dioner Navarro GETTY IMAGES

In 193 games with the Jays over two seasons, the portly and genial switch hitter batted .267 with 17 homers. While his overall defence was suspect, Navarro was highly regarded for his game-calling. He developed a strong chemistry with Marco Estrada and was credited with aiding the right-hander’s breakout season.

Despite being a switch hitter, Navarro is expected to serve in a platoon in Chicago with Alex Avila, who struggles against left-handed pitching.

The Jays have also cut ties with Josh Thole, the knuckleball-catching specialist who arrived with R.A. Dickey three years ago from the New York Mets. Thole, who worked almost exclusively with Dickey while in Toronto, was not tendered a contract by the Jays before Wednesday’s midnight deadline for arbitration-eligible players, so he is now a free agent.

TORSTAR NEWS SERVICE

IN BRIEF

Olympic cuts mean no air conditioning for athletes

The 10,500 athletes at next year's Olympics will feel first-hand the deep budget cuts buffeting the Rio de Janeiro Games: they won't have air conditioning in their bedrooms unless someone pays for it.

Charging for air conditioning is part of what games organizers call finding "fat" and cutting it.

Mario Andrada, spokesman for the Rio Games, said that organizers have found up to 2 billion reais (\$520 million) that needed to be cut. THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

US indicts 16 more in FIFA investigation, including two heads in Americas

Five current and former members of FIFA's ruling executive committee were among 16 additional men indicted on corruption charges as part of U.S. prosecutors' widening investigation into soccer corruption.

Led away by Swiss federal police in a pre-dawn raid Thursday at a Zurich hotel were Juan Angel Napout of Paraguay, president of the South American confederation, and Alfredo Hawit of Honduras, head of the North and Central American and Caribbean governing body. THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

Argonauts' QB Ray signs on for two more seasons

The Toronto Argonauts and 36-year-old quarterback Ricky Ray have reached a contract agreement that will keep Ray in Double Blue for two more seasons.

Financial terms in the two-year deal were not revealed. Ray, a 13-year CFL veteran who has been in Toronto since 2012, was set to become a free agent on Feb. 9.

TORSTAR NEWS SERVICE

Pistorius convicted of murder following appeal

TRIAL

Athlete initially imprisoned on lesser charge of manslaughter

Oscar Pistorius was convicted of murder on Thursday by a South African appeals court that described the once-glittering story of the double-amputee Olympian and Reeva Steenkamp, the girlfriend he killed in his home in 2013, as "a human tragedy of Shakespearean proportions."



Reeva Steenkamp
GETTY IMAGES

The Supreme Court of Appeal overturned a lower court's conviction on the less serious charge of manslaughter, adding another twist to a case that riveted people around the world because of its gripping saga of a celebrity athlete's plunge from grace by his own hand.

"The accused ought to have been found guilty of murder on the basis that he had fired the fatal shots with criminal intent," Justice Lorimer Eric Leach said in the

courtroom in Blomfontein, as Steenkamp's mother, June, sat impassively. Pistorius was not there.

The murder conviction means Pistorius will almost certainly go back to jail, where he spent one year of a five-year prison sentence before being put under house arrest at his uncle's mansion in Pretoria in October.

The minimum sentence for murder in South Africa is 15 years, but exceptional circumstances in the case of the former track star, including time already served, his disability and status as a first-time offender, could mean he'll get a lower

sentence. Sentencing is up to the North Gauteng High Court, where Pistorius was tried. South African media said Judge Thokozile Masipa, who presided over the original trial, will handle the matter. No sentencing date has been set.

The National Prosecuting Authority will wait for word from the trial court about possible sentencing dates, said Luvuyo Mfaku, a spokesman for the authority. The Pistorius family said in a statement:

"The legal team will study the finding and we will be guided by them in terms of options going forward."

Johann Engelbrecht, a criminal lawyer who is not involved in the Pistorius case, said it is doubtful that the former athlete's lawyers could challenge the murder conviction by appealing to the constitutional court. He speculated that prosecutors would want the sentencing process to proceed

swiftly rather than let Pistorius remain under house arrest for an extended period.

Pistorius, a multiple Paralympic champion, became the first amputee to run at the Olympics and the able-bodied world championships. He was known as "Blade Runner" for his carbon-fiber running blades.

"This case involves a human tragedy of Shakespearean proportions," Leach said while delivering the ruling on behalf of the five-judge appeals court.

"A young man overcomes huge physical disabilities to reach Olympian heights as an athlete," he said. "In doing so he becomes an international celebrity. He meets a young woman of great

natural beauty and a successful model. Romance blossoms and then ironically, on Valentine's Day, all is destroyed when he takes her life."

Steenkamp, a model who appeared in a television reality show, had planned to give a speech touching on domestic abuse and family relationships at a school on the day she died. In a tweet the day before she died, she wrote: "What do you have up your sleeve for your love tomorrow???"

Leach witheringly described Pistorius' often tearful trial testimony as "vacillating and untruthful" and said Masipa, the judge who convicted him of manslaughter, committed an "error in law" by incorrectly applying a legal principle called "dolus eventualis."

Under that concept, a person can be convicted of murder if he or she foresaw the possibility of someone dying through their actions and went ahead anyway.

Pistorius, 29, insisted he shot Steenkamp by mistake, thinking there was an intruder behind the door of a toilet cubicle in his home. The prosecution said Pistorius shot Steenkamp during an argument.

THE ASSOCIATED PRESS



Oscar Pistorius is currently under house arrest.
GETTY IMAGES

NBA

Jersey design for first all-star game in Canada fits nicely

This season's NBA all-stars will play in jerseys that both pay homage to Toronto's NBA history, and celebrate the game's first appearance in Canada.

The NBA and

Adidas unveiled the jerseys on Wednesday, for all-star weekend Feb. 13-14 in Toronto. Among the unique design elements, the font for the jersey's name and number is identical to that worn in 1946, when the Toronto Huskies hosted the New York Knickerbockers in the league's inaugural game.

"This is the first NBA all-star game to be played out-

side the United States, and it is a very exciting time for basketball in Canada," said Chris Grancio, global basketball manager for Adidas.

The all-star game balloting begins Dec. 10. "To honour this global celebration and pay

tribute to Toronto — the site of the NBA's first game — we've incorporated design elements that are inspired by the city's basketball history, sports culture and unique fashion scene."

The all-star game also celebrates the 125th anni-



The back of NBA East 2016 all-star jersey. ADIDAS/NBA

versary of the invention of the game by James Naismith.
THE CANADIAN PRESS



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RECIPE Mini Lamb Burgers



PHOTO: MAYA VISNYEI

Ceri Marsh & Laura Keogh
For Metro Canada

Celebrate making it to Friday with delicious burgers with big flavour.

Ready in
Prep time: 25 minutes
Serves 4

Ingredients

- 1 lb ground lamb
- 1/4 cup red onion, finely minced
- 1/4 cup fresh parsley, chopped
- 1 tsp dried oregano
- 1 tsp cumin
- Salt and pepper
- 1/2 English cucumber, seeded and finely chopped
- 1/2 cup Greek yogurt
- 2 tsp lemon juice
- 2 tsp fresh mint, finely chopped
- 1 clove of garlic, minced
- 8 to 10 mini pitas
- Lettuce leaves, washed and torn
- Tomatoes, sliced

Directions

1. In a large bowl, mix together lamb, onion, parsley and spices and combine well. Cover and place in the fridge.
2. In a medium sized bowl, mix cucumber, yogurt, lemon juice, mint, garlic and salt and pepper and stir.
3. Take meat out of the fridge and form 8 to 10 small patties. Place them on a clean plate. Heat your grill or pan to medium, medium-high heat and add a bit of vegetable oil. Cook your burgers, about 5 minutes on each side until the internal temperature is 160 F. Work in batches so you don't over crowd the pan.
4. Cut each pita in half and tuck in a lamb patty, some lettuce, tomato and a good dollop of the tzatziki-ish sauce.

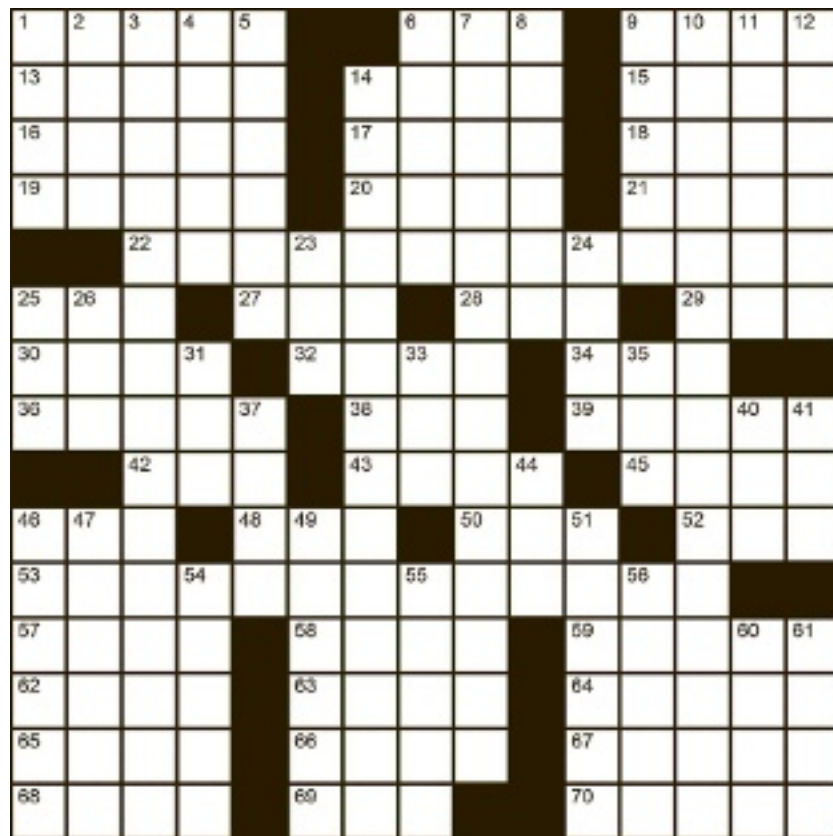
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CROSSWORD Canada Across and Down

BY KELLY ANN BUCHANAN

ACROSS

1. Flapjacks flavouring's flavour
6. "I Am Legend" (2007) star ...his initials-sharers
9. Sniffy state
13. Another time
14. Nightclub in a Barry Manilow hit, briefly
15. "Be _ _!" (Help out!)
16. Go- _ (Fun vehicles)
17. Throughout
18. Alphabet sequence
19. Prefix to 'doutist' (Braces giver)
20. Nasty
21. Nero's 651
22. Manager of the same-named band, as per #3-Down: 2 wds.
25. Numerical prefix
27. Moviedom's Melissa
28. Consume
29. '70s records
30. Actress Cheryl
32. Intermision, _ _acte
34. Diminutive
36. Pre-university Quebec school
38. WWII soldiers
39. Ms. Spelling's
42. Farm animal
43. 'Opal' suffix
45. Ms. Campbell
46. Clod
48. Moulder
50. "Papa- _ - Mow-Mow"
52. No. to call
53. Invading naval



- fleet defeated by England in 1588: 2 wds.
57. Bloody prefix
58. Violinist, Hilary _
59. Blown snow formation
62. Botanical leaf-to-stem angle

63. Fencer's need
64. One distributing things, say
65. Sound
66. On _ _ with (Equal to)
67. Christmas poem bit: "...not _ _ mouse."
68. "...so long _ _

- both shall live?"
69. Director Mr. Pollock, briefly
70. Not like The Fonze

DOWN

1. Shark variety
2. Food thickener
3. 1970s music-

- themed sitcom, with The: 2 wds.
4. Willowy
5. Spiritualize
6. Fabricated on a loom
7. Canada's legendary opinion-giving video booth: 2 wds.
8. Ontario city on Lake

- Huron where #51-Down was born
9. _ _ _ (The first letter of Calgary, compared to the first letter of Celine)
10. Holt Renfrew, for example: 2 wds.
11. Boxer's injury: 2 wds.
12. Liquids
14. Theme song for #3-Down: 4 wds.
23. Hive denizen
24. Food package abbr.: 2 wds.
25. "Say Yes to the Dress" network
26. 'After It All': Current album by folk rock group Delta _
31. Lawn's morning blanket
33. Christmas-y contraction
35. Geological period
37. Prefix to 'scope'
40. 'Excess' suffix
41. _ _ et poivre
44. Last day in December, e.g.
46. City on Lake Ontario east of Toronto
47. Highest points
49. Milo of "Romeo and Juliet" (1968), and surnamesakes
51. Dave _ (Canadian-born actor who portrayed #22-Across)
54. _ _prosequi (Not proceeding, in law)
55. Onward
56. Took the car
60. Deflect/protect
61. Restaurant order holder

* IT'S ALL IN THE STARS by Sally Brompton

Aries March 21 - April 20
You may have suspicions about someone's motives but don't go public with them. Even if you're right it will look like you are being vindictive. Your reputation could suffer most.

Taurus April 21 - May 21
Be careful with cash because you could easily make a costly mistake. What seems like a good idea now may turn out to be anything but later on, so err on the side of caution.

Gemini May 22 - June 21
No matter how well intentioned your words may be others are sure to take them the wrong way, so be careful what you say. Tomorrow everything will be back to normal and everyone will be on your side again.

Cancer June 22 - July 23
You may struggle to stay on top of your workload but the deadlines you've set are unnecessary — no one will think less of you if you fail to meet them.

Leo July 24 - Aug. 23
Creatively and romantically there is potential but today's Mercury-Jupiter link could tempt you to go too far. Don't start anything you may not be able to finish and don't make promises you may not be able to keep.

Virgo Aug. 24 - Sept. 23
Disruption is inevitable today. Whatever happens, keep telling yourself that it's not as bad as it seems and keep your emotions in check. It's not worth getting worked up about.

Libra Sept. 24 - Oct. 23
Don't make hasty decisions, especially if you like to make social and travel plans on the spur of the moment. What seems like such a good idea now may seem very different by this time tomorrow.

Scorpio Oct. 24 - Nov. 22
You may feel out of your depth and you may be tempted to give up but if you do you will regret it in a matter of days. Hang in there.

Sagittarius Nov. 23 - Dec. 21
You may be rather emotional, even if you are the kind of Sagittarius who usually treats life as one big joke. Once in a while though it is good to let it all out, so make a noise if you have to. You will feel better for it.

Capricorn Dec. 22 - Jan. 20
You may not be the type to make changes once you've made up your mind about something but you may not have a choice today. You are not in control of events — events are in control of you.

Aquarius Jan. 21 - Feb. 19
Usually you don't care if others disapprove of what you're doing but if you're smart you'll make an effort to care. No matter how self-reliant — make an effort to work with others.

Pisces Feb. 20 - March 20
You may not be able to control what happens but you can control the way you react. The more others try to mess with you the more you must strive to stay serene.

CONCEPTIS SUDOKU by Dave Green

Every row, column and box contains 1-9



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SPREE
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